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'A year has passed; nothing has changed'



People gather yesterday at the memorial in Tel Aviv's Kikar Rabin, erected at the site of Yitzhak Rabin's assassination last year. (AP)

State Rabin memorial held at Mt. Herzl

BATSHEVA TSUR

"I WANT to ask your forgiveness, grandpa; a year has passed and nothing has changed," said Yonatan Ben-Artzi, speaking on behalf of the Rabin family, at the state ceremony mark the first anniversary of the assassination.

"We are still swimming inside a sea of confusion ... looking for the way out, and it seems, almost always, that there is no end to it." The Mt. Herzl graveside ceremony - attended by President Ezer Weizman, Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, the diplomatic corps, other dignitaries, and Rabin's close aides and friends - was the focal point of a day of memorials throughout the country.

US President Bill Clinton called Leah Rabin on her cellular phone minutes before the ceremony, and US peace envoy Dennis Ross was among the large crowd that gathered at the graveside. The ceremony was transmitted abroad live by CNN, Sky, and the BBC.

Ben-Artzi spoke of the family's continuing grief, clearly seen on their faces as they sat listening intently. Many a friend had tear-filled eyes.

"The giant void that was opened in our midst has changed us," he said. "We have not yet reached the stage of picking up the pieces. We are no longer who we were before ... We get up with you in the morning, go with you to work, to the army, to our studies ... We keep ourselves busy with thoughts of you to ensure that those things that once were so clear and now are becoming so distant remain with us. We are still a family, but a sad and tired family."

The family feels guilt, Ben-Artzi said. "Everyone has asked forgiveness: important and simple people, sensitive and sensitive people, secular and religious... Only we have not asked forgiveness of you until this day."

"Forgive us, grandpa, that we believed you ... that we closed our eyes out of pride. Forgive us that we did not watch over you as we should have. Sorry, grandpa, that we allowed them to take you from us."

The family element was dominant in the solemn ceremony. Rabin's grandson, Michael, lit the memorial torch; his son, Yuval, recited Kaddish; granddaughter Noa Ben-Artzi laid the family wreath.

There were no official speeches, as the family had asked that Weizman and Netanyahu not speak at the graveside. Instead they laid wreaths, followed by the heads of the Supreme Court, IDF, police,

A day of mourning

* Thousands thronged to Tel Aviv's Kikar Rabin, where Rabin was murdered

* The Knesset honored Rabin with flags at half mast and speeches by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, President Ezer Weizman, and Labor Party leader Shimon Peres.

* Yuval Rabin pointed an accusing finger at "those bloodstained people who declared my father a persecutor worthy of death ... and who are still walking around freely."

* At schools and universities around the country, the assassination was marked by ceremonies, vigils, and study.

Special reports, Pages 4, 5

Knesset, diplomatic corps, and Jerusalem Municipality.

Many participants expressed dismay that Shimon Peres had not been invited to lay a wreath, Israel Radio reported.

Outside of the family, only songwriter Naomi Shemer gave verbal expression to the love that so many seemed to feel.

"Yitzhak Rabin's story is our story," she said. "The cannot-topped youth on the Tel Aviv beach, that is us: the young commander in the Palmah, that is us; the man who buried so many friends on the road to Jerusalem, that is us."

"He believed in the justice of our cause with total faith... He was the man who dreamed of achieving peace in his time; the man who fell while on duty in Kikar Malchei Yisrael, surrounded by love and hope. He is the man who is buried into our memories by fire, and there he will remain."

For many, it was hard to leave after the ceremony. They filed slowly past the grave, heaping it with flowers as the hundreds of thousands had done a year ago, giving the family a handshake or a hug.

Then the grave site was reopened to the public and the people of Israel came lovingly to pay their respects.

'Constructive ambiguity' may help solve hot pursuit impasse

DAVID MAKOVSKY and JON IMMANUEL

ISRAELI and Palestinian negotiators appear to be heading toward "constructive ambiguity" as a way to deal with the question of whether the IDF, after a Hebron pullback, will be allowed to enter the Palestinian parts of Hebron in a security emergency, sources close to the negotiations said yesterday.

If terms are close to returning to the draft language reached last week of an agreement to raise the security issue, sources said. Another security issue has been solved by Palestinian agreement to set up police stations some distance from areas where Jews live. According to Oslo 2, a fixed number of rifles are permitted, but this is only to protect the police stations. Hence, moving the stations away from Jewish areas reduces the chance that rifles will be used near them, the sources

said.

But Israeli negotiators reported that while the Palestinians accept a buffer zone in principle, they want it to be 500 meters deep and the Israelis a kilometer. Security talks continued for a third night running in Jerusalem, as negotiators wondered whether a deal could be struck before Sunday, when Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat is scheduled to fly to Europe.

There has been some progress in the Hebron talks, but differences are still very wide, Arafat said yesterday at a presentation to the families of 29 Gazans killed in the recent clashes with IDF troops.

Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat said

that the negotiators have drawn up a list of their differences on each issue.

There is no agreement on the issue of hot pursuit, and the Palestinians have not agreed to the idea of joint hot pursuit, in which Palestinian Police would accompany Israeli soldiers, he said.

"In three weeks, we have got to the point of drawing up a list of what we disagree on."

Asked to explain why the talks at one moment seemed close to completion and at another back where they started, Erekat said, "I would say the government sometimes sounds like it has labor pains, but then it turns out to be a false pregnancy."

Erekat said that no agreement on any

individual issue can be considered settled unless all the issues are settled.

In the new upgraded format, Chief of General Staff Lt-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak headed the Israeli team, while Mahmoud Abbas seems to have supplanted Erakat top Palestinian negotiator.

US special Middle East coordinator Dennis Ross met with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday. "Progress has been made, but there are still some differences that both sides are trying to overcome," Ross told Reuters as negotiators began meeting in a session that was likely to run all night.

"The closer you get, some problems come up that are not anticipated but it's part of the overall process. I feel there is a genuine effort to reach agreement and I am hopeful," he said.

Deadline passes with no change in PLO Covenant

DAVID MAKOVSKY

THE six-month deadline for the Palestine National Council (PNC) to establish a legal panel that would draft a new Palestinian covenant came and went yesterday. Palestinian officials were unavailable for comment.

Officials in the Prime Minister's Office said they have been not informed of any legal panel convening. Netanyahu plans to raise the matter at today's cabinet meeting.

There has been much controversy on what occurred at the PNC vote on April 24. Then premier Shimon Peres hailed the vote as heralding the abolition of the existing covenant, which calls for Israel's destruction. He called the move one of the most significant in 100 years. However, then opposition leader Netanyahu called it a "con job," interpreting the vote as little more than authorizing a legal panel to come up with new recommendations, without its abolition.

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| Tel Aviv 4:39 p.m. | 5:55 p.m. |
| Hatza 4:30 p.m. | 5:33 p.m. |
| Beersheba 4:37 p.m. | 5:34 p.m. |
| Eilat 4:38 p.m. | 5:37 p.m. |

Soldiers, settlers warned of possible kidnappings

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

SOLDIERS and settlers have been warned to be on the lookout for attempts to kidnap them by Islamic Jihad terrorists. Meanwhile, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai has ordered security forces to maintain a high level of alert amid specific warnings of an attempted suicide attack by Moslem extremists.

The public is also asked to stay on high alert, report anything suspicious, and be patient with tightened security precautions.

Mordechai issued the instructions after convening the "Territories Forum" yesterday afternoon to discuss the security situation. Participating in the meeting were the chief of staff and most top field commanders, as

well as the head of the General Security Service and Police Inspector-General Assaf Hefez. After the meeting, Mordechai ordered the operational alert be kept at its high level amid security warnings that Islamic Jihad is planning a suicide attack on the anniversary of the assassination of its leader Fathi Shkaki a year ago in Malta.

"The closure imposed midnight Wednesday is to be maintained until further notice, but Defense Ministry officials said its duration will be assessed daily.

Following the meeting, soldiers and Jewish settlers in Judea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip were

told of warnings Islamic terrorists would try to carry out a kidnapping. Soldiers were also warned to beware while traveling inside the country.

Sources in the Council of Settlements in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza said security officers on each settlement were told of the warning and were to relay it to residents.

Security officials have said the Palestinian Authority is helping thwart attacks.

Betar, Bnei Akiva refuse to sing 'A Song to Peace'

BATSHEVA TSUR

MEMBERS of the Betar and Bnei Akiva youth movements will not join in the singing of "A Song to Peace" at a memorial ceremony for prime minister Yitzhak Rabin on Sunday organized by the IDF. But they will not object if others sing the song.

According to Amos Hermon, head of the Likud-affiliated Betar youth movement, "Some of the words of the song are offensive to the memory of

Yitzhak Rabin and others of the fallen..." It goes against our beliefs.

Rabin sang the song at the peace rally in Kikar Malchei Yisrael just minutes before he was assassinated. Meretz later bought rights to use it as the theme song in its Knesset election campaign.

Hermon said the Betar members respect those who plan to

sing the song at the ceremony, but also expect their opinions to be respected.

Earlier there had been talk of canceling the ceremony because of disagreement by the various youth movements over the song.

"Our youth plan to sing the words out loud and clear," a spokesman for the Meretz-affiliated Hashomer Hatza'ir said later. "The song symbolizes Rabin's legacy of peace."

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Police shoot fleeing Arab caught with forged ID

DAN police shot and seriously wounded an Arab from the territories who fled while they were checking his documents at a routine roadblock near the Morasha junction yesterday morning.

Rananda Abdalla, 27, who was in possession of a forged Israeli identity card, suffered moderate to severe wounds in Petah Tikva's Beilinson (Rabin) Hospital.

Since the issue of warnings that terrorist groups are planning to carry out a suicide bombing mission here, police have been on full alert, and have set up additional roadblocks country-wide, often causing more traffic jams than usual.

Yesterday morning a special patrol unit van was near the Morasha junction when police noticed a van with five men inside. The men seemed suspicious and police stopped the vehicle and asked to examine the occupants' documents.

The driver, a 21-year old Israeli Arab from Kafr Bara, had a valid identity card.

But Abdullah, of the Samaritan village of Azun, began to run into a nearby field. Police shouted to him to stop, then fired shots in the air, but Abdullah kept run-

ning, police said. One policeman then shot at him, wounding him in the stomach.

Abdullah was taken to the hospital, where he was in serious but stable condition. He had a forged Israeli identity card and police were investigating how he obtained it.

The four other passengers were taken to the Dan police headquarters for questioning. Three of them, aged 19, 20, and 22, also from Azun, had orange identity cards from the territories.

Apart from the driver, the other passengers were not supposed to be in Israel, and police were investigating how they managed to penetrate the numerous roadblocks along the Green Line, especially since a total closure on the territories was imposed on Wednesday.

Police determined that the vehicle driven by the Kafr Bara resident, known to police for bringing in Arabs to work illegally here, was not stolen but checking the possibility that the four came here to steal vehicles.

The other possibility is that

they came to work illegally, but in view of the closure sources said this was unlikely. It is also unlikely that they came here to carry out a terror attack, and no weapons were found in the vehicle. A source said that they probably arrived via paths and unmarked routes from the territories into Israel.

Dan police chief Dep. Cmdr. Eli Arazi said that according to a preliminary investigation, police who shot at Abdullah acted in accordance with regulations. However, as in all cases involving the opening of fire by policemen, the matter must be checked routinely by the Justice Ministry's police investigations division.

Security forces, police, and defense officials have been warning of impending planned terror attacks, since yesterday was the anniversary of the killing of Fuhri Shkaki. Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz cancelled a planned trip to Turkey yesterday, where he was supposed to participate in an Interpol conference to discuss international crime problems together with representatives from 176 countries.



French President Jacques Chirac addresses the Jordanian parliament while Jordan's King Hussein listens yesterday. Chirac said that, "Today peace is in danger. The security of the countries of the region cannot be guaranteed by force."

Chirac, Hussein worried over Mideast peace process

FRENCH President Jacques Chirac, seeking to carve a role in the Middle East for his country on the Jordanian leg of his tour of the region, yesterday continued to call for a Palestinian state and the resumption of limited Iraqi oil exports.

He was specifically critical of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, urging him to cede territory and to implement peace accords with the Palestinians "fully and without delay."

His remarks were made in Amman on the fourth leg of a Middle East tour that has taken him to Syria, Israel, and the Palestinian-controlled territories.

From Jordan, Chirac flew to Beirut for a one-day stop. His quest for a greater European role in Middle East peace was expected to garner strong support from Lebanese leaders.

Chirac and Jordan's King Hussein both said they are concerned about the faltering Middle East peace process and worried that extremists may gain the upper hand.

Chirac arrived in Jordan on Wednesday from the Palestinian-controlled territories. After talks

with Hussein that night, Chirac was quoted by a spokesman as saying: "We share the same feeling about the evolution of the region and the peace process. We share the same anxiety."

A senior French official said Chirac's prevailing impression after his visits is that the peace process is in crisis.

Hussein struck a similar note of gloom in an interview with the international Arabic newspaper *Al-Hayat* published yesterday.

"Since the assassination of Rabin, we started feeling that the extremists are dictating their will on the arena," he said. "What is dangerous is to reach a point where people lose hope and then deterioration could be accelerated. It is easy to destroy but difficult to construct."

In contrast to Chirac, Hussein avoided any mention of a Palestinian state in his interview, saying only that the Palestinians must have the right to live on their own soil.

Hussein also said that prime min-

ister Yitzhak Rabin's assassination was a great loss, because "when he committed himself, he honored his commitment."

"We tried to give [Netanyahu] a chance and we gave him one," the king told the newspaper. "The problem now is that what was agreed upon has not yet been implemented."

However, Hussein defended his own treaty with Israel, saying "We achieved all that we hoped for."

Chirac won praise from Jordanian Islamists yesterday after warning of humanitarian disaster in Iraq and calling for greater understanding between Islam and the West. They said Chirac, who addressed Jordanian parliamentarians yesterday, offered more balanced policies towards the Middle East than the US.

"We support a more assertive role for Europe... and France is leading this role," leading Islamist deputy Bassam al-Amoush said after hearing Chirac speak. "This brings to the fore another group and destroys the hegemony of the US over our region."

Government to sell 2,400 homes in territories

A KEY settlement official met with advisers to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu yesterday to hammer out details that will enable the selling of some 2,400 government-owned housing units in the territories.

Ze'ev Hefez, who is both a member of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza and the head of Amnata, which is responsible for setting up and maintaining settlements, also briefly met with Netanyahu.

The meeting took place a week after Netanyahu promised settlement leaders that he personally would ensure that a freeze on selling these homes, imposed by the Labor government, would be reversed.

On Wednesday the Knesset Finance Committee approved a NIS 57 million allocation to the Housing Ministry for completing the infrastructure for the homes.

The Shamir government initiated the construction of these units. However, after the Rabin government began its settlement freeze, these units stood empty, with the government refusing to market them. Squatters moved into an estimated 1,700 of them.

One settlement council official said it is clear that Netanyahu's involvement in the issue is meant to counterbalance any redeployment to Hebron.

"If I had to bet, I'd say that we will see the final okay to sell these homes given once an agreement on Hebron is reached," he said.

In a related matter, Gush Katif settlement leaders were up in arms about a suggestion made by Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani to move the settlements of Netzarim and Kfar Darom as part of a final agreement with the Palestinians. Although this was advocated by various ministers in the previous government, Kahalani is the first member of the Netanyahu government to voice the idea.

"We are dumbstruck by Kahalani's words," a statement the Gush Katif Regional Council issued reads. "These are two active settlements which are preserving an important Israeli foothold in the Gaza Strip, and are an integral part of the Gush Katif settlements. Evacuating them would represent surrender to Palestinian violence."

Hamas, Jihad: PA preventing us from carrying out suicide attacks

HAMAS and Islamic Jihad officials have publicly blamed Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat and the PA for preventing them from carrying out suicide attacks against Israeli targets over the past seven months.

In separate telephone interviews this week with the London-based daily *Asharq al-Awsat*, they said the PA's crackdown on their activists following the wave of bus bombings in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv in February and March had blocked the suicide attacks.

Hamas spokesman Ibrahim Ghosheh said the PA and its intelligence services had waged "a systematic campaign against Hamas's military and political cadres in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, throwing them into jail and torturing them."

Abdallah Shallah said the PA's "sole job and preoccupation is to protect the Zionist enemy and liquidate the resistance."

There was no decision to cease attacks, for which suicide bombers and weapons are available. "What is not available is the opportunity, due to Arafat's numerous intelligence services and their cooperation with Israeli intelligence services," Shallah said.

"Despite this, I personally affirm that military action will continue to be the expression of our people's will. The jihad [holy war] will go on."

The paper did not specify where the two men had been contacted, but Ghosheh is known to be in Amman while Shallah is known to be in Damascus.

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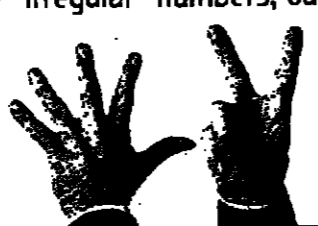
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הקדמה מן האל



Rabin Memorial

Somber Knesset remembers Rabin

FLAGS at half mast and an eerie quiet announced to the country and the world that the Knesset has not forgotten Yitzhak Rabin nor how he died.

MEMORIALS from across the political spectrum arrived strangely silent directly from the graveside service on Mount Herzl.

Labor Party chairman Shimon Peres arrived alone; Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu arrived with his wife, surrounded by security men; Leah Rabin arrived with her family.

At 5 p.m., Speaker Dan Tichon opened a special memorial session, a picture of Rabin adorned with a black ribbon on the plenum.

"On that Saturday night a year ago, three shots rang out. The state, which had known the sound of tanks, cannon, and rockets, had never been shaken as it was shaken by the three shots from a pistol," he said.

"The lethal gun has become an iron chisel with which it is written in giant letters: Stop this horror. Return to sanity, tolerance, and understanding.

"Lately, as we grew closer to the anniversary, the fear has grown that we have not pulled out all the lethal thorns ... We receive different warnings and the heart is filled not only with the physical fear, but more of the fear of harming the most delicate organ of all - Israeli democracy," Tichon said.

"This is the time and this is the place to come out with a joint call - to the entire House - in the last moment of sanity: Let Yitzhak Rabin be the last person to fall on the altar of intolerance and hatred."

President Ezer Weizman said the sound of the gunshots would reverberate forever.

"We must therefore start refreshing the essence of democracy, its outlook and values, and teach the younger generation to know how to implement its principles. To know, to remember, and to remind that different opinions and positions exist in a democratic state, and the only way to determine them is by the ballot and the

LIAT COLLINS

elected Knesset, not by gunshots in a city square."

He recalled Rabin the soldier and statesman, "who fell in the fight for peace ... He was the clear symbol of the men of war who one day take off their combat gear and turn it into the dress of peace."

Weizman also had a political statement: "We are now at the height of a process of historical dialogue from which there is no return, which will bring us, we all hope, to true and full peace with all our neighbors, to make the entire region flourish."

As Netanyahu took to the podium, Dalia Itzik (Labor) and Dedi Zucker (Meretz) walked out. Zucker later explained it was to protest the incitement in which, he said, Netanyahu was directly involved and for which he should apologize.

Coalition leader Michael Eitan described the walk-out as "baseless, provocative, and divisive."

Netanyahu called for unity and non-violence, stressing that violence is not the Jewish way. "No matter what differences of opinion exist among us, and the disagreements can be as sharp as can be, political violence cannot exist among us."

"Anyone who says such a crime is committed in the name of Judaism is profaning the Jewish religion. Anyone who says it was done in the name of nationalism, tramples any national value. Anyone who says it was done for the future of our people and country, destroys our future."

"Rabin symbolized for many years all that united and made a bridge among the people, the ability to unite around what we have in common and overcome the divisions among us. Only a national consensus that can convince our neighbors of our durability, only that can bring the desired peace, and only that will ensure that this peace will survive. The murder of Yitzhak Rabin must remind us again of a fundamental truth: that peace begins at

home."

As he left the podium, he shook hands with Peres.

The opposition leader's speech was uncompromising. His voice breaking with emotion, Peres also recalled Rabin's contribution to national security and the peace process.

"Yitzhak knew well the significance of shaking the hand of a leader who only the day before had been an enemy," Peres said. He stressed that Rabin had put security first and believed that true peace would bring security.

"We knew that loaded guns could be found in the pockets of some of our own people and that they could bring a Holocaust upon the people and disaster upon its leader."

"It was forbidden then, and is still forbidden today, to focus only on the terrible bullets that put an end to his life. We must not forget that Yitzhak had to run an insufferable gauntlet of unforgivable incitement before those bullets. It was no less serious than these shots."

He recalled the shouts of "traitor" and "murderer," saying: "We must tell the truth. There were loud shouts and there were muffled shouts. And at the peak of his life, he had to cope with false accusations and real threats. We know now we did not have the right to forgive, to be silent, to ignore."

"Rabin knew that there is no reversing history ... He had a bold encounter with history and he was shot in the back. You can shoot in the back, but you can't turn your back on an historic encounter. The murderer will not win. It's difficult to murder history. Yitzhak will remain the unmurdered representative of this history ... To commemorate his memory, one must continue in his path - and the path goes on."

Leah Rabin met by chance with Netanyahu and his wife before the session. She accepted his handshake, but the atmosphere was freezingly polite and formal. She called for a national memorial day for her husband.



A teenager at Kikar Rabin is overcome with grief.

(Liat Ossenblyen-Israeli Sun)

'Candle children' return to the square

MICHAL YUDELMAN

THEY thronged to Tel Aviv's Kikar Rabin again yesterday, the "candle children" coming to relive the sorrow on the spot where Yitzhak Rabin fell.

The trickle began in the early morning, swelling hourly until a crowd had formed. All ages came to cluster silently around the improvised bullet-riddled barrel that still serves as a makeshift memorial. But like the last time, it was the youngsters who were the most poignant.

The children of the candles, whose image spread to circle the globe, were back - "a year older and a lot less innocent," as one said.

Again they lit their hundreds of little candles and spread their wreaths, big ones from the schools and youth movements, small ones from individuals. They huddled around the memorial again in little circles, or stood in groups, praying or crying, emulating the emotional scenes that dominated Tel Aviv for weeks after "the day the music died."

"It seems as if it all happened yesterday," said Sari, 17. "And at the same time, it could have been 10 years ago. We've gone through so

much since then. Nothing is the same any more. I feel I've lost something, hope perhaps, great expectations. We seemed so naive, so innocent then. We were, after all, on the verge of peace. All that is gone now. We've lost that. We've lost the innocence."

"Rabin, forgive us," someone wrote on a card among the flowers. "Forgive us for not being there."

"We took him for granted," a mourner murmured. "We didn't come out into the streets to support him," said another - just as they said it a year ago.

Shimon Sheves, Rabin's close aide, stood looking at the scruffy barrel for a long time. When he turned to go, a youth approached him.

"What you said then," he said, "that it was the end of your country ... That's exactly how I felt."

"It's true," Sheves replied grimly. "You don't know yet how true it is."

People discussed what they felt they had lost and couldn't find again. "Rabin gave a feeling

of security," one explained to a foreign journalist. "You felt you had a leader. Now there is no one to take his place."

"He is us ... Rabin's story is our story," said Naomi Shemer at the memorial service on Mt. Herzl. It echoed what many in the square said they felt, but they struggled to find adequate words.

"The difference between then and now," said one young woman, "is that before the murder nobody could imagine such a thing could happen. Now it's a possibility, part of our lives. After the assassination, they said it was 'a wild weed,' an exception. Today, we know there are many like that - no wild weed at all."

"Just look what happened to Yael Dayan," another interjected.

By evening, the dirty gray pavement had turned into a carpet of shimmering, flickering flames again.

They still came. They still remembered. They still cried. The old barrel will soon be gone - an official sculpture is to be unveiled on the infamous spot. Somehow, the barrel seems more appropriate to the children of the lights.



Leah Rabin speaks to President Bill Clinton yesterday during the memorial service at Mt. Herzl. White House spokesman Michael McCurry said the call lasted for five minutes and that Clinton told Mrs. Rabin she was in his thoughts. A videotaped message by the president was due to be shown at a memorial service at the Israeli Embassy in Washington last night. National security adviser Anthony Lake, Israeli Ambassador Elyahu Ben-Elissar, and Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott were expected to address some 300 members of the Jewish community and Congressional leaders.



Yitzhak Rabin's grandson, Yonatan Ben-Artzi, lights a memorial flame at the state ceremony at Har Herzl yesterday.

(Isaac Harari)

The night the music died

EYEWITNESS MICHAL YUDELMAN

AMERICANS still speak of John F. Kennedy's murder 30 years later. Here, too, every one of us will remember the moment we learned our prime minister had been assassinated.

I was on the balcony overlooking down to the square, the journalists grumbled, tried to estimate the size of the crowd in the packed square and made cynical cracks about the apparent new-found affection between Rabin and then-foreign minister Shimon Peres, "sitting side by side like two love birds."

A chance to slip through the security net materialized when I spotted Labor secretary-general Nissim Zvilli. I asked him where I could get a badge like his that carried the words "On Duty" under his name and which was a magic pass to enter the VIP area. He

promptly gave me his badge.

From that moment the fences melted as I became "Nissim Zvilli On Duty" and slipped easily through the security entrance to the square with the dignitaries milling around and behind the stage.

"How did you get in?" Amnon Barzilai of *Ha'aretz* asked from the other side of the fence.

I handed him the magic badge, he came in and handed it back to Vered Barzilai, of the paper's Tel Aviv weekly. Several other known journalists followed suit as Zvilli's badge slipped from hand to hand.

We joked about this handy loophole in security, little suspecting that an armed murderer was

already lurking a few meters away at the bottom of the other staircase reserved for the VIPs to exit by.

Rabin stood up to address the cheering crowd for the last time. He was flushed, deeply moved by the waves of love and support rising from the masses and enveloping him at the first major rally to back his peace process. As the great event drew to a close, I asked Barzilai to give me back Zvilli's badge - a souvenir from what was clearly an historic evening. There was clation in the air, a rare excitement, a current which flowed from the crowd in the square to Rabin and the leaders on the stage, infusing them with power and stature and legitimacy.

Then Rabin had been coaxed into singing "The Song to Peace" and Miri Aloni handed him the microphone. Surrounded by peo-

ple, his face was glowing. It was the party of his life and his finest hour. Then they sang "Hatikva."

Already the television crews were packing up their gear and heading for the journalists' exit. They had all the footage they needed. Rabin shook more hands, then turned still beaming towards the VIP staircase behind the stage. Minutes later the three shots rang out which changed our lives and the nation's history.

The Zvilli badge turned into an entirely different kind of souvenir. I keep it in a drawer where it lies like a bad omen, a symbol of something covered in malignancy and the guilt of what we journalists failed to do - breach security, mill around him, crowd him to his car.

A souvenir of the night the music died.

Hussein: Rabin's peace legacy will be pursued

AMMAN (AP) - A year after the assassination of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, Jordan's King Hussein pledged that the legacy of his peace partner would "remain alive."

"Our hope is that the legacy he left us, [along with] others who fell before for the cause of peace, will remain alive," Hussein said yesterday.

"We will do whatever we can to ensure that objective is reached - a comprehensive peace, a just peace, and an honorable peace for all, for the entire region," he added.

In a joint press conference with visiting French President Jacques Chirac, Hussein became emotional when he was reminded of Rabin's assassination.

"To me, it was [the] loss of a friend and a colleague with whom I worked to have achieved what was achieved so far," he said.

ماذا من الالام



Rabin Memorial

Dalia Filosof: Don't let his sacrifice be in vain

THOUSANDS of students filled the Tel Aviv University lawn at midday, watching in silence as the flag was lowered to half mast. Black signs said: "The murder of Rabin will not be forgotten." Dalia Filosof, Yitzhak Rabin's daughter, called on the students to realize Rabin's legacy and march onward to peace and to a better future.

"A year has gone by," she said, "and it seems as though it were only yesterday. The terrible pain, the open, bleeding wound. I'm standing here today, bearing the worst pain of all, haunted by the awful spectacles and the hate-filled voices

MICHAL YUDELMAN

before [the murder]. "And I remember every moment of the day those names they gave you in the incitement-filled demonstrations. Your pictures covered with a keffiyeh and a Nazi officer's uniform, being burnt [in effigy] in the streets. And I wonder, where does the hatred come from? Until we conduct true soul-searching, and until the inciters don't stand up and raise their hands above their heads, the land shall know no peace.

"Let this day, the anniversary of the murder, be a day of soul-searching and hope for a better future."

"On your shoulders," she told the students, "rests the duty to march forward to peace, to a better life in this country. Don't let his sacrifice be in vain."

Labor Party chairman Shimon Peres said Rabin's path was not an easy one, "for the road to peace is strewn with roses. Rabin told the truth, and the truth is annoying. Everyone wants peace, but not everyone is ready to pay the price of peace.

"We shall remember Rabin's greatness and his way. And the only right way to remember this man is to preserve our power and translate it into peace. To achieve peace and translate it into power."

Rabin's son accuses inciters of hatred

RAINE MARCUS

YUVAL Rabin, the son of murdered prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, yesterday pointed an accusing finger at "those bloodstained people who declared my father a persecutor worthy of death and held a *pulsa dinura* (black candle) ceremony against him, and who are still walking around freely."

"I blame those inciters at Jerusalem's Zion Square. I blame those who conducted a dummy funeral [of Rabin] in Ra'anana and I blame those who could not restrain their tongues. I blame those who did not lend a hand to incitement but who kept quiet," said Rabin at a memorial ceremony in honor of his father, organized by the Education Ministry's youth division and held at Tel Aviv's Habima Theater yesterday afternoon.

Yuval Rabin, who announced recently that he intends to become politically active and heads the "A Whole Generation Demands Peace" movement, also blasted reports issued by certain parties after the murder, indicating that assassin Yigal Amir is "simply a lone lunatic from Herzliya."

"This is not the case here," added Rabin. "The way for the murder had already been paved well in advance and various incidents had opened the way to the heart of the murderer to commit this terrible deed."

"The cups of burning tea will turn again into flaming smoke of gunfire, and the next political murder will wash us all in blood. The writing is again on the wall," said Rabin referring to the attack on Yael Dayan earlier this week.

Rabin described his father's ecstatic feelings only moments prior to the murder, as he spoke during a peace rally at Kikar Rabin, formerly Kikar Malchei Yisrael. "If someone would have mentioned the possibility of an assassin he would have replied, 'Nonsense' with a typical wave of his hand," said Rabin.

Prior to his speech, singer David Da'or sung to a crowd of around 1,300 young people, comprised of secular, religious, Arab, Druze, and Beduin high school pupils from different educational establishments and youth movements around the country.

"Look after the world, kids, because we are not able to any more," sang Da'or.

The ceremony was addressed by President Ezer Weizman, who described, from the stage lit up with hundreds of memorial candles, the 47 years he had known Yitzhak Rabin, during all the latter's positions and roles in the country's wars.

A kippa-wearing high school pupil quoted Bialik, reading: "So great - so great the pain: This was the man who is no more... He is lost forever."

Another religious student, Tal Brush of Beersheba, said that the two shots which killed Rabin "left us all totally confused and shocked. All those moral values disappeared and with them democracy."

Liad Mudrich, 17, said that the goal of the ministry's youth movement is to close the gap between young people of all races and beliefs,



Yuval Rabin speaks at yesterday's ceremony at Kikar Rabin in Tel Aviv. (Amit Shilo/Israel Sun)

and to unite against racism and violence.

"A year after the murder, it is time for an inventory of our values and soul," she said from the stage. "The role of youth must be in favor of dialogue, tolerance, patience, and we must learn to listen to each other."

Education Minister Zevulun Hammer said that "the tongue holds the power of life and death. And the tongue can release words like a murderer's sword. We must be aware of the consequences of our words."

He also preached tolerance - "to build and not to disdain, to honor different opinions and to learn that our rivals are not our enemies."

"It is forbidden for any man to believe he can save the people from its leader," he added. "Nothing justifies this despicable murder."

Last night a large ceremony was held at Tel Aviv's Mann Auditorium, also attended by the country's youth, the Rabin family, IDF generals, ministers and MKs. Aviv Gefen, Shlomo Gronich, Miri Aloni (who sang the "Song to Peace" together with Rabin just minutes before his murder), Corinne Alal and other performers appeared. The event was organized by *Yediot Aharonot's Rosh 1* magazine and Israel Cable Television's Family Channel.

State religious schools, settlements mark yahrzeit

STATE religious schools on all levels followed Education Ministry guidelines and marked the first anniversary of Yitzhak Rabin's death yesterday. Many of them also marked the death of the Matriarch Rachel, which also occurred on the 11th of Heshvan.

At Jerusalem's Horev Yeshiva, where hundreds of seventh- to 12th-grade Orthodox youths study, all pupils attended a talk about Rabin by yeshiva head Rabbi Mordechai Elon. Educators also discussed the theme separately in their classes, using copies of a booklet produced by the ministry.

JUDY SIEGEL and HERB KEINON

Rabbi Yosef Eliav, coordinator of Horev's intermediate school, bemoaned statements made in the media by haredi educators who said that the premier's murder was "none of our business; we are as far from it as east is from west."

In the territories, the anniversary of Rabin's assassination was marked in settlements by memorial ceremonies in schools and - in some instances - central ceremonies in the community. In Karnei Shomron, the Bnei Akiva and

Tzofim youth groups held a ceremony, attended by some 300 people, where they heard speeches both on Rabin and on the need for tolerance.

Schools in Alfei Menashe held ceremonies in Rabin's memory, and it was a topic of discussion in Beit El schools as well, as per Education Ministry instructions.

The issue will be dealt with in Kiryat Arba today, said spokesman Tsuri Popovitch, since yesterday was spent talking about Rachel. "We don't want to mix the two events," Popovitch said.



Pupils at Rene Cassin High School in Jerusalem light memorial candles in the shape of a peace symbol yesterday. (Brian Hendler)

Jerusalem pupils honor Rabin's memory

FOR over a decade Violet Guez has been trying to convey to her pupils at Jerusalem's Rene Cassin High School the importance of democratic and pluralistic values; sometimes with success, sometimes not.

Yesterday, at a ceremony marking the first anniversary of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin's assassination, Guez, the school principal, again believed the moment crucial for reiterating the importance of those values.

"The assassination of a prime minister in a democratic state forces contemplation, a looking within, and learning from what happened," Guez said in a short speech during the outdoor ceremony.

"The great crime that took place must be seen in its social context... and must be confronted with courage. ... Today, all of us standing here are committed to the peace of our country and society, and responsible for ensuring its continued democratic character," Guez said.

A pupil read a poem by Bialik,

BILL HUTTMAN

while others read from Rabin's speeches during several events connected with the peace process, emphasizing his dual commitment to the importance of fighting for Israel's security and striving for peace.

Between the speeches, a high school choir and band performed popular songs that touched on the themes of peace, climaxing in the "Song to Peace," sung at the close of the Tel Aviv peace rally when Rabin was gunned down a year ago.

One pupil wore a shirt emblazoned with Rabin's picture. Inside the school, the slain prime minister's portrait was taped to a wall, with memorial candles on the ground in front of in the shape of the peace symbol.

Schools across the country held similar ceremonies to mark the anniversary of Rabin's assassination, with the Education Ministry distributing to the schools detailed suggestions on how to hold the ceremonies and other activities

related to the day.

At Rene Cassin, in the Ramot Eshkol neighborhood, most of the day was devoted to the assassination anniversary. The anniversary was the subject of debate in the classrooms, as teachers challenged the youngsters to discuss what Rabin's death had meant for them.

"The lessons of the Rabin assassination can't be taught in one day," said the 42-year-old principal. "We taught about the importance of democracy and pluralism before the assassination, and continue to do so with great intensity."

Guez, who has taught at the school since 1969, and became principal last year, said she was unsure that the message she wanted to get across to her pupils was indeed being absorbed by them.

"We aren't stopping with our efforts to teach the pupils about the importance of democracy after today's ceremony," she said. "It's something we are dealing with all the time, because we believe it is so important."

Ichilov gets Rabin donation

The Ichilov Hospital trauma unit that treated Yitzhak Rabin after he was shot will receive a \$400,000 donation from the Israel Histadrut Foundation in the US. The donation, to mark the first anniversary of Rabin's death, was announced Wednesday in memory of Herbert Rothman, a lawyer who was the foundation's president.

The unit was named for Rabin earlier this year. The contribution will be used to build a new emergency room and expand the trauma unit. *Judy Siegel*

Major convicted for inflammatory letters to Rabin

Maj. Daniel Bibas, 36, of the Ordnance Corps, was convicted this week by a Northern Command military court of conduct unbecoming an officer for saying former prime minister Yitzhak Rabin was a murderer and sending him letters saying, among other things, that his blood should be drunk.

According to the prosecution, one of Bibas's letters to Rabin said: "You joined up with evil people who treat Jewish blood as if it were water. You will pay for this, all of you." *Itm*

Bid for national day of mourning rejected

The High Court of Justice rejected a petition yesterday demanding the anniversary of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin's death be declared a day of national mourning. The court noted the authorized government body - the Ministerial Committee on Ceremonies and Symbols - had decided against the idea, and said it had no authority to substitute its own judgment for the panel's. Justices Yitzhak Zamir, Tova Strasberg-Cohen, and Dalia Dorner sharply reprimanded the petitioner, attorney Shmuel Sa'adia, for accusing the panel of having been influenced by political considerations, and fined him NIS 5,000 in court costs for having filed a frivolous petition. *Evelyn Gordon*



Students at Bar-Ilan University mark the yahrzeit. (Dana Stern/Israel Sun)

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Democracy, not demagoguery

PRESIDENT Ezer Weizman, with his usual sure touch, put his finger on the mark when speaking to the country's youth yesterday at a memorial rally for prime minister Yitzhak Rabin in Tel Aviv.

This statement borders on demagoguery. Surely it is permissible to remember and mourn Rabin — both the man and his shocking murder — while disagreeing with his policies. Indeed, the country is in sad shape if it is not possible to mourn a man with whom one disagrees. To assert that those who reject Rabin's policies have not really rejected his assassination is a cynical attempt to use the murder as a political bludgeon with which to beat the public into accepting these policies.

The most disquieting remarks of the day, however, came from MK Ehud Barak, currently the leading contender to be Labor's next prime ministerial candidate. Speaking to a gathering of several hundred high-school students in Kfar Sava, Barak said the murderer had succeeded, because the country's "political leadership had changed."

To say that a vote for Likud is the equivalent of sanctioning Amir's deed does not merely border on demagoguery; it is the real thing. That Amir's methods must be utterly rejected is self-evident. In a democracy, regimes are changed by ballots, not by bullets. But the act of one fanatic cannot deprive an entire country of the moral right to vote its conscience on serious issues of state. The very essence of democracy is the right to decide on precisely these issues by choosing among different parties. For the sake of the country, it is hoped that Barak will manage to learn something about democratic values if he indeed succeeds in becoming his party's leader.

Against this background, the sensible remarks made yesterday by MK Haim Ramon, Barak's former, and perhaps future, rival for the Labor leadership, were especially welcome. Ramon vigorously rejected a radio interviewer's assertion that Rabin's murder appeared to be mourned by only half the country, noting that at the memorial events he had attended over the past two days, he had seen right wingers and left wingers, along with religious and secular Jews, in equal numbers. The real division is not between Left and Right, he said; it is between the vast majority of people who express their legitimate opposition to government policies in legitimate ways, and the "tiny, marginal minority ... who have declared war on democracy and on any government that fails to do its will."

This is indeed the real battle: that of the vast majority of decent citizens against the handful of fanatics who would destroy the fabric of our society. If Rabin's murder, rather than serving as the rallying cry it could and should be in this war, continues instead to be used as a cheap political weapon in arguments over foreign policy, it is only that handful of fanatics who will profit.

Labor Party leader Shimon Peres also struck a jarring note at the Knesset memorial. Following eloquent pleas for unity, tolerance, and civility from Weizman, Netanyahu, and Knesset Speaker Dan Tchebor, Peres instead chose to give a campaign speech, opening with the assertion that Israel had never known four better

years than its under Rabin. What was particularly disturbing, however, was his concluding statement: Those who wish to memorialize Rabin "are obligated to continue in his path."

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Crisis over, now for the next

MOSHE ZAK

HOW predictable! The only way to reach a breakthrough in intricate negotiations is to generate a crisis.

American mediator Dennis Ross took a leaf out of Henry Kissinger's book this week with his sudden dramatic announcement that he was upping and returning to Washington.

Israelis and Palestinians interpreted his leaving as a crisis — and sure enough, that same night on his way to the airport Ross was informed that the two sides had achieved a breakthrough.

Now the negotiations have passed the critical point and the road to an agreement stands open. But there may be more surprises at the next crossroads. Even once the agreement is signed there may be U-turns, as happened with the accord signed in Tel Aviv two months ago.

In that accord, mediated by Norwegian Terje Larsen, Israel committed itself a priori to honoring the Oslo agreements, including the redeployment in Hebron, without receiving any real promise in return. The accord, in fact, formed the basis for the meeting between Binyamin Netanyahu and Yasser Arafat during which the date for beginning the discussions on implementing the Hebron agreement was fixed.

Then a few days later came the outburst that turned everything upside down. Riots following the opening of the Hashmonean Tunnel exit broke out, intended to heat things up a little before the talks in order to muster international support for pressure on Israel over Hebron, and more.

Arafat's tactics worked. Several countries rushed to volunteer their services as mediators between the

parties. But these weren't genuine offers of mediation; they were declarations of support for Arafat's far-reaching diplomatic demands.

As more and more offers of mediation flowed in, Arafat's slowing of the pace of negotiations became more and more pronounced, Israeli concessions notwithstanding.

Every country invited by Arafat to mediate — or that, mindful of its own status in the region, has pushed itself forward as a mediator — has been asked to state clearly its position on a Palestinian state. Italy and Russia, South Africa and Greece have already promised their support.

Arafat likes to talk about the "Namibia process" in which the

temptation to announce a Palestinian state unilaterally will increase.

In the summer of 1973, France joined Egypt's initiative to force a settlement on Israel via the UN Security Council. The US torpedoed the proposal. France did not imagine that this Egyptian maneuver was preparing the ground for the Yom Kippur War.

Today is no different. France is blithely unaware that Chirac's waving aloft the flag of an independent Palestine serves only to increase tension in the region and complicate the negotiations.

Other countries eager for a slice of the mediation cake must understand once and for all that in rushing to ensure their status in the settlement of the conflict they are actually perpetuating and even exacerbating it.

France once — rightly — decided in favor of independence for Algeria, and — wrongly — imagined it would end bloodshed in that country. The many French citizens murdered in Algeria over the last year only prove the large gap between solutions planned from a distance and facts on the ground.

It is doubtful that the French have examined the Palestinian problem in depth, equally doubtful that they can promise their solution will bring peace.

This week's crisis did indeed pave the way for an agreement on Hebron — but a new crisis already lurks. Its cause? The grandiose illusions being fostered by uninvited "partners" pushing their mediation services on us.

With the Hebron tangle nearly undone foreign friends offer their mediation services threatening to mess things up again

Arafat was also testing the Netanyahu government's ability to stand firm in the face of international and domestic pressure.

What all this means is that the possibility of further obstacles arising after the Hebron agreement cannot be ruled out. A secret report given Arafat by Palestinian intelligence and made public this week states: "French President Chirac's visit should be exploited to generate a process of European pressure on Israel."

The pressure envisioned? It isn't just over Hebron, but in the grand cause called Palestine. Hebron is serving as the Palestinians' "guinea pig," as the testing site for confrontation with Israel on the way to the dreamed-of state.

Chirac didn't wait for negotiations on the permanent settlement to fire the international starting pistol in the race toward that state.

WITH THE Hebron agreement almost behind us it is likely that Arafat will now begin applying pressure for redeployment in rural areas, redeployment that should have begun on September 7.

The consolidation of wide areas under Palestinian rule will broaden the Palestinian Authority's territorial base. In this situation, the

temptation to announce a Palestinian state unilaterally will increase.

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The writer, a veteran journalist, comments on public affairs.

The French concoction

AMOTZ ASA-EL

THE Jews," Count Stanislas de Clermont-Tonnerre said in 1789, "should be given nothing as a nation, but everything as individuals."

Delivered in front of the Constituent Assembly a few weeks after it had abolished feudalism and issued the Declaration of Rights, that memorable statement was highly progressive for its time. Ultimately it came to symbolize the dawn of a new era not only in Jewish-Gentile relations but between all religious minorities and modern democracies.

Unfortunately, compassion and humanity like Clermont-Tonnerre's did not automatically sink roots in France, which soon enough became embroiled in domestic and foreign blood-letting. Like a suddenly split atom, that newly liberated society unleashed previously unknown forces, ranging from guillotines to immense, industrialized and popularly conscripted armies which trampled over an entire continent, turned millions into cannon fodder, and nearly resulted in Gaul's own dismemberment.

During the next two centuries the oft-irreconcilable quests for justice at home and power abroad nearly tore France's collective soul asunder. And so, Jacques Chirac's perplexing sortie here this week could be excused as yet another reflection of those time-honored French contradictions.

Every, Chirac would give the Jews everything as individuals. But when it comes to the basic courtesy of addressing their national assembly or acknowledging their right to police their capital as they see fit — in return for a moment's delusion that his country matters — he abruptly ignores this semi-barbaric region's only embodiment of France's political values and summarily provokes Israelis of all political colors.

Chirac's misdemeanors in Jerusalem this week transcend the Middle Eastern context, revealing a shallow leader whose irrepressible desire to restore France's global leadership is overlaid with romanticism, mixed in hypocrisy, and fueled by escapism.

As a romantic, Chirac, like much of his diplomatic corps, clings to 19th-century memories

of a sprawling, tri-continental empire whose military sway, political clout and cultural influence were global landmarks.

Ask Greenpeace. Since its inception, this internationally respected organization's worst trauma was the series of nuclear tests with which a victory-drunken Chirac insisted on contaminating the Pacific shortly after his election.

What French interest did that bullish outburst promote?

Chirac's misdemeanors in Jerusalem this week transcend the Middle-Eastern context

Everyone knew Paris had the bomb. Why strain relations with Australia, Japan, New Zealand and the environment?

Because Jacques wanted the world to know that the same France that once controlled much of what lay between Vietnam and the Ivory Coast is still here, and everywhere; and that should power and justice clash, his France would nonchalantly prefer cynicism over justice.

THAT SAME inferiority complex was also evident earlier this month when a frustrated Jacques Godfrain, France's minister for overseas development, attacked US Secretary Warren Christopher for having dared visit West African states and offer some of Uncle Sam's assistance. "Three weeks before the US presidential elections..."

A neo-imperialist Paris sees Francophone African states as its stepchildren, but though it meddles ceaselessly in their affairs, those former French domains remain among the world's most desperate social-economic black holes.

Set against this backdrop, those French shivers at the sight of a rich, generous and glib donor arriving within what it sees as its orbit are reminiscent of an abusive stepfather's hostile reaction on suddenly being confronted by a social worker.

Whenever it barges into yet another global arena France does its best to conceal its power agen-

da and wave the banner of justice. When it defends Saddam Hussein, it's because he is a secular bulwark against religious fanatics. When it opposes a boycott of Muammar Gaddafi, it's for the sake of Mediterranean harmony. And when it calls for Palestinian statehood, it's because all peoples deserve the right of self-determination.

It would all sound so much more convincing were French big-business interests not so glaringly at stake, or if Paris's self-determination jargon were consistent with, say, its treatment of the Corsican struggle for independence.

Sadly, Chirac's attempts to play first violin in this planet's affairs sound ever more cacophonous against the obligatio of his dismal domestic record.

His pompous election-campaign promises to induce growth, slash unemployment and maintain a famously unaffordable cradle-to-grave social safety net while reducing taxes, have yet to be fulfilled.

The writer is a member of The Jerusalem Post editorial staff. The views expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the paper.

POSTSCRIPTS

OLYMPIC SWIMMER Amy White has a suggestion for other silver medalists put off by a Nike footwear commercial that says: "You don't win silver, you lose gold."

Just boo it. "I am insulted every time I see it," White said. "They are slapping every athlete, and every country that doesn't win gold in the face. That's not the spirit of the Olympics."

White said her 1984 silver medal in the 200-meter backstroke was the accomplishment of her life. She was 15 when she finished less than a second behind Yolanda de Rover of Holland.

Nike was trying to convey a sentiment shared by many athletes, that second best isn't winning, said a company spokesman.

filled. Ironically, it is that old colonialist heritage which more than anything else plagues France's economy.

The Republic's power-derived absorption of millions of Third World immigrants as low-class laborers coupled with its legislation of justice-inspired welfare taxes have given businesses both the opportunity and the incentive to hire illegal immigrants, thus evading exorbitant employers' taxes. Consequently, France's has the developed world's most chronic and severe unemployment problem, not to mention urban decay and racial indignity.

A more insightful French president would understand that it is domestic issues that should dominate his agenda, and that, historically, megalomania abroad has yielded his country nothing — in fact has cost it dearly.

Chirac's neighbor Helmut Kohl seldom leaves Europe, spending most of his time focusing on his country's real problems.

It's time Chirac did a little less globetrotting and minded France's own business.

The writer is a member of The Jerusalem Post editorial staff. The views expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the paper.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DESPICABLE BEHAVIOR

Sir, — It seems that Mr. Chirac, the president of France, came to our country determined to make his visit a controversial one. His bias, snubs, insults, condescending and unacceptable behavior do not do credit to his office or to our opinion of French diplomacy. One expects better from a people who are reputed for courtesy.

President Chirac's outburst in Jerusalem on October 22, protesting the security afforded him and his entourage, was not commendable and was done in a way to humiliate and show his contempt for Israel, and this was yet another example of his anti-Israel bias.

It is inconceivable that any other prominent world dignitary would have behaved in the manner of Mr.

Chirac all through his official visit to our country, and I am equally sure that no Israeli dignitary would, on an official visit to France, have the effrontery to behave in a similar fashion.

President Chirac would do well to remember that Israel is an independent democratic state, just like France, and its people do not take kindly to interference in its internal affairs and being subject to humiliation from a foreign head of state. It would have been much better if Mr. Chirac had had the good sense not to visit at all, as it appears abundantly clear he only did so in order to show his contempt for Israel and to embarrass its leaders.

STANLEY SHAPIRO
Ra'anana.

BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION

Sir, — A recent column on Parenting by Ruth Mason discussed behavior modification with children. An additional positive factor in favor is that often children wish to behave differently, but are not able to do so on their own. They need, and often welcome, structure and limitations. Behavior modification can best be done with the child and her/his parent(s) and the professional who is guiding them.

For children older than the toilet-training and bottle-stopping crowd, it is an opportunity to participate in important decision-making, to undertake a responsibility, to see it through and to reap the benefits of the decision. Whatever the responsibility the child receives, it should be accompanied by praise to the child for seeing through what he or she has undertaken. The joys of accomplishment and growth are essential ingredients of life at any age.

DR. SUE ZOHAR-DESHEH
Jerusalem.

DOUBTFUL LOYALTY

Sir, — During the recent rioting and shooting at Israeli soldiers by the Palestinian police there was mounting evidence of close ties between these Israeli Arab citizens and the P.L.O. These ties with the Palestinian Authority were put before loyalty to the State of Israel. In Umm el-Fahm, "Death to the Jews," was shouted continuously and the Israeli Arab leaders did what Arafat wanted them to do. People must be made aware of the dangerous implications of this development.

It is difficult to imagine how Israel can function with this horrendous problem. In every country with a minority population, that population is loyal to the state. If not, it pays for that disloyalty. Israeli Arabs have to rethink their commitments. They cannot be loyal to Yasser Arafat and to Israel at the same time.
Jerusalem. TOBY WILLIG

OSLO ASYMMETRY

Sir, — Yasser Arafat reacted to Israel's insistence on its right under the terms of the Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip signed in Washington on September 28, 1995 (popularly known as "Oslo II") to engage in hot pursuit in Hebron by insisting on symmetry — that Palestinian police be allowed hot pursuit into Israeli-controlled territory. Arafat's demand for symmetry illustrates a misunderstanding of the underlying asymmetry built into Oslo II in favor of Israel's security concerns.

On the question of "hot pursuit," it should be noted that, while Article I Sub-Paragraph 3b of Annex I gives Israel the right to both hot pursuit and preemptive strike beyond areas under its security responsibility, there is no similar provision for the Palestinians.

Oslo II sets a limit on size of the Palestinian Police and its equipment and gives Israel veto power over who can serve in it. There are no limits on the size of the Israeli forces

in the relevant areas or their equipment and the Palestinians have no say as to who serves in the Israeli forces.

Israel can deny Palestinian requests to move Palestinian policemen through area C, between area A and area B and within area B. Israel can bar Palestinian entry into Israel from the autonomy. In contrast, Israeli entry cannot be barred and Israeli military forces and Israeli civilians may continue to use roads freely within the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Israel can veto any Palestinian construction which may harm, damage or adversely affect Jewish settlements and military locations of the infrastructure serving them [please note that "infrastructure" can also include access roads]. There are no such restrictions on Jewish construction.

DR. AARON LERNER,
Associate,
Independent Media Review and
Analysis
Kfar Sava.

מלך מן האלוהים

Forever remember

CHAIM HERZOG

A year has passed," wrote Chaim Guri in his song "Friendship," in which he recalled "the handsome ones with their beautiful hair," the Palmachniks who forged a path to the city.

Surely the image the songwriter saw before his eyes was that of their young commander in the Har'el brigade, a redheaded youth with beautiful eyes who became one of Israel's greatest commanders and politicians and was murdered by a contemptible and base assassin, the most loathsome of beings.

"The voice of your brother's blood cries out to me from the earth," we read in the Book of Genesis only recently.

The voice of Yitzhak Rabin's blood cries out from the hills of Jerusalem, from the bloodstained command posts and battlefields of 1948, from the Kasteel, from Mt. Zion and San Simon and all the battlefields of the coastal plain, from the Galilee and the Negev.

The voice of the blood of Yitzhak Rabin cries out from the battalions and brigades of the IDF, which he helped found and build.

In the Six Day War Rabin led the IDF to the greatest victory the Jewish people had known since the days of Joshua and David. Those who experienced the days of terror, the sense of being closed in on from every side, will neither forget nor forgive the murder of the commander by whose hand providence brought about Israel's salvation.

The paratroopers who stood crying at the foot of the Western Wall, the pilots who went out under Rabin's command to destroy the enemy's tanks, our armored forces who fought to the teeth in Sinai, the Golan fighters who broke through to the Golan, and the sailors who prevailed at Sharm el-Sheikh - all were under his command. They will never forget nor forgive.

Those who went into battle as brothers with a joint mission, heads covered and uncovered, the sons of kibbutzim and moshavim,

of cities and villages, of suburban neighborhoods and development towns, loved and admired their commander. They knew his life was sacred to his people and his land. They followed him to war, in fire and flood. They followed him into victory, and they followed him toward peace. They will not forget.

Neither will the freed Entebbe hostages forgive or forget that it was the bold and courageous decision of Yitzhak Rabin that sent the IDF in to get them out, in an operation that amazed the entire world.

On Mt. Herzl, in the area reserved for the Great People of the Nation, Yitzhak Rabin was buried. All the leaders of the world gathered to pay him their last respects. Relatives and strangers alike saw him as a symbol and a hero. A warrior for the independence of his nation, for its liberty and security. And they saw him as an example of one who seeks friendship and good neighborliness, building a bridge over turbulent waters and blazing trails to peace.

Not far from Rabin's grave, in the military section of Har Herzl, lie many of his friends and those who served under him. The tombstones on the mountain are silent; but if those who fell in Israel's wars could make their voices heard, surely their cries would reach the heavens.

The voice of the blood of Yitzhak Rabin cries out not only from the earth but from the pages of Jewish history, in which his name is inscribed in letters of gold as one of the creators and shapers of a new era.

The voice of the blood of

Yitzhak Rabin cries out from the heritage of Israel and from the Torah of Israel, that sanctifies life above any other value, and sees the spilling of blood as the most heinous crime.

I AM afraid. I am afraid and anguished because I cannot see that the shock of this murder has fully impacted on this nation. It seems as though the trauma too quickly gave way to the demands of routine.

It is as if the terrible lesson was not learned, as if national introspection simply stopped at a certain point, and people returned to their everyday concerns.

The fires of destruction are burning at the edge of the camp. If we do not, together, hasten to extinguish them they will destroy our entire house.

One hand pulled the trigger. Its owner will rot in jail until the end of his days. But the murderer emerged from a poisoned abscess, one that developed on the margins of the margins of the religious Zionist movement.

This abscess is the root of the evil. Only if it is cut out will the body recover.

I can say only this: If the murder of such a man, of a prime minister, does not set the very fibers of our national being a tremble, if it doesn't shock us to our very foundations; if we have not vomited out the curse and uprooted the cancer, and not done away with that group of insane zealots, that badge of dishonor for our people, we are, God forbid, in danger of seeing this nightmare recur.

I call on religious Zionism to take on this mission, to respond to the moral challenge: to lead a new phase of national reconciliation and stop regarding land as the highest value. I call on it to return to the historical path of Torah and labor, whose ways are the ways of pleasantness, and whose every path is peace.

This article is adapted from a speech given yesterday at Bar-Ilan University.



The Jerusalem Post

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Time isn't on our side

ALLAN E. SHAPIRO

THIS week was marked by a coincidence of events that may show the shape of things to come in the post-US election future. On the one hand, there was the threat of the departure of US mediator Dennis Ross if the talks became stalemated. On the other hand, there was the visit of French President Jacques Chirac, in pursuit of a more active European role in the area.

Is such a changing of the guard a real possibility? Even before the recent flare-up of violence and the subsequent unproductive White House summit, Richard Holbrooke, broker of the Dayton accord that ended the fighting in Bosnia and the most likely replacement for Warren Christopher as secretary of state in a second Clinton administration, suggested that in the absence of progress toward a settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute should be put on the diplomatic back burner.

No vital American interests are involved, he argued. Unless a serious crisis, such as the outbreak of hostilities, threatened, American intervention should be sharply curtailed.

Recent events can only have strengthened this analysis. The "full partnership" in the peace process, proclaimed by Warren Christopher in his Mideast tour in February, 1993, involved considerable political risk for Clinton. Major American involvement became a test of American influence and power. With the president's personal prestige on the line, success became a political "must," especially on the eve of the presidential elections.

The minimal conclusion Clinton must have drawn from the recent White House summit is that he will never again permit himself to be put in such a demeaning position.

An American withdrawal from active diplomatic participation in

Mideastern peace efforts would not leave a vacuum, as the Chirac visit suggests. The Americans weren't happy about the French intrusion into the Operation Grapes of Wrath cease-fire diplomacy. They probably aren't happy about Chirac's current flirtation with Damascus. In the event of American disengagement, however, unhappiness could turn into a studied indifference.

Ezer Weizman has on occasion recalled the rather extreme example of the superpower effort to compel an Israeli withdrawal from Sinai and the Gaza Strip after the 1956 Sinai Campaign. The Cold War was then at its most frigid. There was no evidence of coordination between the superpowers. But the possibility of American indifference was sufficient to make the Russian missile threat credible.

DORE GOLD, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's security adviser, once argued in these pages that peace eludes those who seek it as a policy objective. Instead he said, quoting Henry Kissinger, peace is a byproduct of the successful pursuit of a balance of power.

Gold should consider whether the precise opposite is not more likely. Failure to achieve peace could lead to a serious alteration in the balance of power - in Israel's disfavor.

We are at the end of the post-Gulf War period. The period of unrivaled American hegemony in the area is over. Longer-term trends, predating the fall of the Soviet Union as a superpower, continue. These include the relative decline of American economic power, vis-a-vis the European Community and Japan, and the growth of populist forces in the

Arab world, supported by fundamentalist religious movements.

It is probably true, as the Syrian foreign minister once remarked, that Israeli public opinion is more dovish than that of the government, while Arab public opinion is more hawkish than that of the governments of the Arab states.

Time is not on our side. The window of opportunity for a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East may be closing. Of special concern, the historic "special relationship" with the US may be put on hold - along with American diplomatic initiatives in the area.

The American historian David Schoenbaum, in his definitive study *The United States and the State of Israel* claims that three premises have defined and driven the "special relationship." These are the Holocaust, the Cold War, and "the presumed affinities of what were now universally referred to as 'Judeo-Christian' values."

The first, he observes, like all historic memories, is subject to passing time; the second, to changing circumstances. In the absence of peace, what will become of the affinities of shared values?

They cannot be taken for granted, as this week's media events in Hebron amply demonstrate. They include Moleket MK Rehavam Ze'evi, armed with an Uzi, at the head of a band of partisans, showing back an Israeli soldier.

They include Labor MK Yael Dayan scalded with hot tea as part of a political argument. Worst of all, they include a rabbi who, a year after Yitzhak Rabin's assassination, implied that the prime minister of Israel could be a traitor.

The writer comments on legal and political affairs.

Where 'wild weeds' take root

DAVID NEWMAN

THERE is a direct link between the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin and the violent events that took place this week in Hebron.

The brutal physical attack on MK Yael Dayan was just one more in a series of violent acts, both physical and verbal, whose causes do not appear to have been sufficiently addressed during the past year.

Throwing a cup of scalding tea in Dayan's face was wicked enough. Much more disturbing was the immediate aftermath of the incident.

Television footage showed the total apathy and silent agreement of all the demonstrators with the attacker.

No hand was raised to protect Dayan before the incident; no hand offered by the surrounding demonstrators to help her after it. After all, this was just another one of those "lefty" Arab lovers, come to Hebron to demonstrate their support for the Palestinians. They mightn't say it in public any more - but this "traitor" only got what she deserved.

How tragically appropriate that this savage attack should take place just one year after the Rabin assassination.

In a week full of reminders of the events that brought about the murder of an Israeli prime minister by another Jew acting in the name of his own warped religious ideology, it was as though the Dayan incident had been stage-managed to remind us what it was all about.

Unfortunately Dayan's attacker, like the members of the Jewish underground, like Baruch Goldstein and Yigal Amir, display the external symbols of religiosity.

One might have thought, therefore, that it would have been in the interests of the religious world and

its leaders to come out openly against these perverse forms of political behavior, to dissociate themselves openly from such acts in an effort to persuade the large secular majority of this country that religion isn't about violence and hatred, and that those who use

wrong." By continually casting the blame on the "extremist," the national religious world has absolved itself of all responsibility. It has to be stated categorically: The national religious community

The national religious community still hasn't grasped the full impact of its educational message

reigion for these purposes pervert its true message.

But despite all the big words, the year since the Rabin assassination has not brought about any meaningful new dialogue or real internal soul-searching within our society.

The collective labeling of the national religious world as "murderers" resulted in the throwing up of an impenetrable wall; the very idea that this world should carry out *heshbon nefesh* was akin to an admission of guilt. The introspection that should have taken place was replaced by the instant urge to defend oneself against the accusations emanating from the left.

WE HAVE all heard the argument. "Dayan's attacker is just another 'wild weed,' an extremist. He can't blame us for the likes of him. He doesn't represent the mainstream which, despite its opposition to everything Dayan stands for, would never dream of resorting to physical violence against a fellow Jew.

"Amir and Goldstein? Just wild weeds. The Jewish terrorist underground? They were really good, honest people, they just went a bit

An ideology that stresses the practical and applied aspects of Torah teachings for modern society simply isn't being honest with itself when it argues that the use of such terms as *din rodef* were only meant to be taught as an abstract notion.

Religious Zionism is grounded in the basic fact that words must not remain abstract; that they must be translated into deeds through the building of settlements, the move to development towns, army service, and so on.

No wonder then that unless clearly taught otherwise, there will be a growing number of "wild weeds" interpreting everything in practical terms.

Last year the wild weeds caught up with Yitzhak Rabin; this week, with Dayan. We hear of threats to Prime Minister Netanyahu and to the judges on the Supreme Court.

How many more public figures will fall victim before the message finally gets through?

When will the call for soul-searching cease and the real soul-searching begin?

The writer is professor of political geography and director of the Humphrey Institute for Social Research at Ben Gurion University.

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Rabbi Yehoram Mazor (Reform)
Prof. Avner Shaki MK. Mafdal

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עונוה קיני רענן

WORLD NEWS

UN probe shows Vukovar 'casualties' were executed

ZAGREB (Reuters) - Autopsies of bodies from a mass grave of 200 people show they were shot execution-style after being removed from a Vukovar hospital by Serb forces, UN war-crimes investigators said yesterday.

The International Criminal Tribunal on former Yugoslavia (ICTY) has indicted three former Yugoslav army officers for the killing of 261 Croat hospital patients seized in Vukovar after the town's fall to Serb forces in November 1991.

In a five-week exhumation completed on October 4, ICTY experts retrieved 200 bodies from a mass grave in rural Ovcara, near Vukovar in eastern Croatia, where the patients were said by survivors and other witnesses to have been machine-gunned.

Clinton Williamson, ICTY legal adviser in the Ovcara inquiry, said autopsies on 90 bodies had been completed at a morgue in the Croatian capital Zagreb, and about 30 of them had been tentatively identified.

"We believe that we are now in a position to say conclusively that the bodies recovered at Ovcara are those of men who were taken from Vukovar hospital on November 20, 1991," Williamson told a news conference.

Provisional conclusions as to cause of death indicate that all of these persons died of multiple gunshot wounds consistent with an execution-style killing, rather than wounds that would have been incurred in battle.

Bodies were all male, from teenagers to men in their 60s, and none was found in military uniform.

Williamson said that while many bodies had yet to be examined forensically, "the conclusions we have reached now will in all likelihood not change."

The whereabouts of 61 others listed as victims in the indictment remain unknown. But other mass tombs are believed to lie in Eastern Slavonia, a region still in Serb hands but soon to be returned to Croatia under UN supervision.

Vukovar, on the Danube River border with Serbia, was demolished in a ferocious three-month siege by Yugoslav army regulars backing a local Serb minority revolt against Croatia's declaration of independence from federal Yugoslavia.

The massacre at Ovcara was among the most notorious in the 1991-95 Yugoslav nationalist conflict.

Some bodies uncovered at Ovcara bore telltale signs, including orthopedic casts, of having been medical patients.

Victims had been tentatively identified with the help of documents found on the remains, distinctive clothing, jewelry, tattoos, and previously known injuries.

Williamson said results of the inquiry so far appeared to bolster the indictment and could lead to new charges.

The ICTY has censured nump Yugoslavia for refusing to extradite the three indicted Serbian officers, one of whom is believed to run an officers' training school in Belgrade.

Ten days ago, Serbian media with close ties to the authorities confirmed for the first time that Serbs committed atrocities in Ovcara, but put the blame on paramilitary formations and carefully avoided accusing the army.

Analysts said this might possibly signal Belgrade's readiness to eventually hand over the war crimes suspects.

Media were banned from Ovcara during the exhumation to avoid inflaming emotions that might harm the peace process in Eastern Slavonia, which is to be gradually reintegrated with the rest of Croatia by mid-1997.

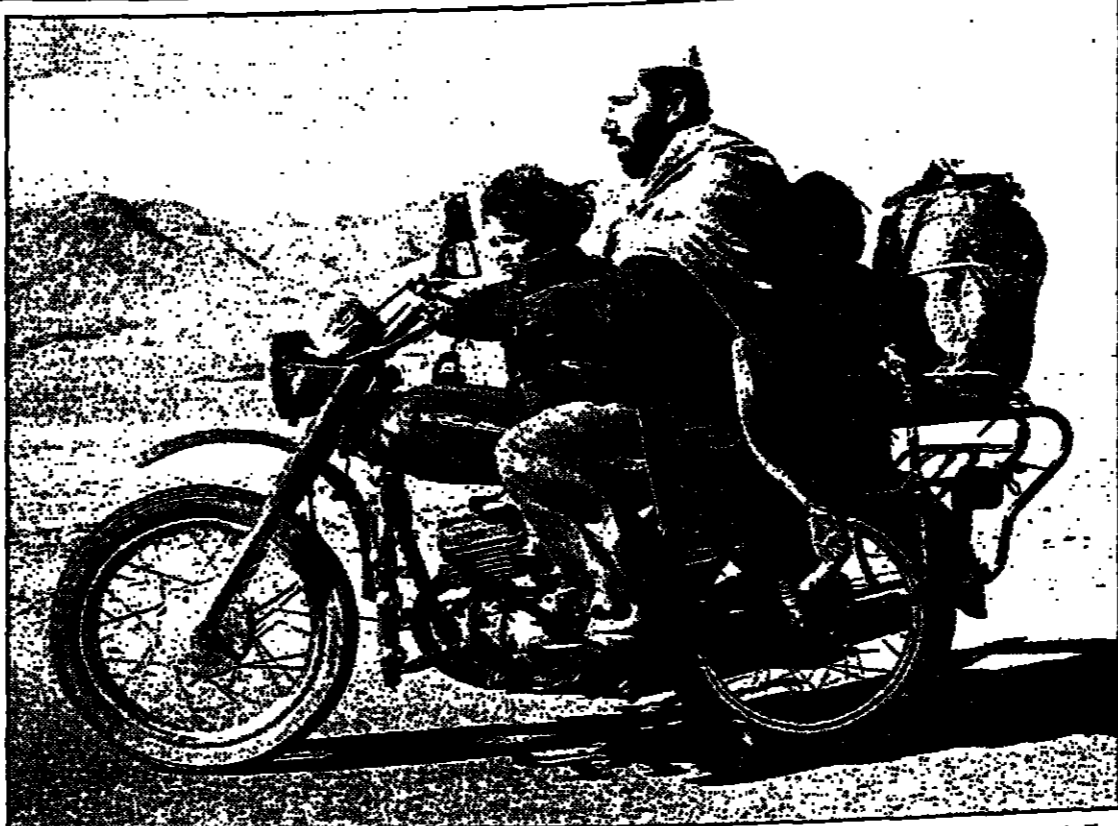
Washington (Reuters) - Texas billionaire Ross Perot's campaign manager made it clear yesterday that Perot would not quit the presidential campaign, and said Republican Bob Dole's appeal to him to drop out was "absolutely foolish."

The aide, Russ Verney, said on CNN Television that Perot would make his position clear in an address to the National Press Club in Washington later in the day.

"Ross Perot has no intention of withdrawing from this year's election," Verney said.

On Wednesday, Dole had dispatched his campaign manager, Scott Reed, to ask Perot to drop out and endorse him. The move was widely viewed as a sign of Dole's desperation for a sign of support before Election Day.

President Bill Clinton retains a wide lead in opinion polls. "This whole effort of first locking Ross Perot out of the



An Afghan refugee yesterday flees to safety in Kabul with his two children. Cease-fire talks between warring factions appear nearing collapse, making a new push on Kabul by anti-Taleban forces increasingly likely.

Taleban: Dostum's forces now fighting

ISLAMABAD (Reuters) - The forces of Afghanistan's powerful Uzbek chief Gen. Abdul Rashid Dostum are now fighting the Taleban Islamic movement in support of the ousted government forces, a Taleban spokesman said yesterday.

A Pakistan-based Afghan news service quoted Taleban acting Information Minister Amir Khan Mutaqi as saying about 50 fighters of the joint forces of Dostum and ousted government military chief Ahmad Shah Masood were killed in fighting north of the Taleban-held capital Kabul on Wednesday.

Dostum's Jumbish-i-Milli movement has entered into an alliance with Masood's Jamiat-i-Islami, but Mutaqi had said in Kabul on Wednesday it was not yet clear whether the Jumbish forces were involved in the fighting.

But the Afghan Islamic Press (AIP) quoted Mutaqi as saying in a later interview that Dostum's forces "have openly taken part in the offensives" against Taleban north of Kabul.

Those killed included a general whose documents showed that he belonged to Dostum's forces, AIP quoted Mutaqi as saying.

He said Dostum's forces had not only taken part in the fighting at Jalal os-Siraj and Charikar, which Masood's forces have retaken from the Taleban, but also taken part in "looting" the local population.

Perot aide: Dole plea was foolish

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Texas billionaire Ross Perot's campaign manager made it clear yesterday that Perot would not quit the presidential campaign, and said Republican Bob Dole's appeal to him to drop out was "absolutely foolish."

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President Bill Clinton retains a wide lead in opinion polls. "This whole effort of first locking Ross Perot out of the

debates, pretending that he doesn't exist in American politics ... and then in the 11th hour of the campaign, recognizing that it is probably the last hope you have to try and win the presidency, for someone to come and ask him to drop out is absolutely foolish. Ross is here to stay," Verney said.

WORLD BRIEFS

Iraqi Kurds end clash; cease-fire takes hold DEGALA, Iraq (Reuters) - Rival Kurdish militias clashed for five hours near a northern Iraqi town yesterday, despite a US-brokered cease-fire that appeared to have silenced guns in the rest of the mountainous region.

Witnesses said the Baghdad-backed Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) traded shots near the town of Degala, after the PUK launched an attack in mid-morning. But fighting halted in the afternoon.

The US State Department announced that the groups had agreed to observe a cease-fire beginning at midnight Wednesday. US envoy Robert Pelletreau got an agreement to halt the fighting from the two factions' leaders at separate meetings in Turkey this week.

Jewell no longer suspect in Olympic bombing ATLANTA (Reuters) - A federal judge, who says he believes Richard Jewell is no longer a suspect in the Olympic park bombing, has ordered authorities to release sealed documents showing why the former security guard fell under suspicion in the first place.

In a ruling issued late on Wednesday, US District Judge Owen Forrester gave the Justice Department one week either to challenge his order in a federal appellate court or to unseal FBI affidavits used to obtain warrants to search Jewell's property.

Jewell, 33, who steadfastly maintains his innocence, has been the only named suspect in the bomb attack that left two dead and more than 100 wounded in downtown Atlanta on July 27. He has never been charged with a crime, despite months of searches, FBI surveillance, and media scrutiny.

Russia, Ukraine leaders discuss Black Sea fleet row

MOSCOW (Reuters) - The Kremlin said Russian leader Boris Yeltsin and Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma agreed yesterday on how to end a dispute over dividing the Black Sea fleet, but Kuchma later made clear there is still work to be done.

Kremlin spokesman Sergei Yastrzhembsky said the two had resolved all the problems in the row over sharing out the 600 naval vessels which has soured relations between Moscow and Kiev since the Soviet Union fell apart in 1991.

"The presidents reached agreement on all the questions. Before the middle of November, it is expected that Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin will visit Kiev when a number of agreements will be signed on splitting up the fleet, where it will be based, and on financing as well," Yastrzhembsky told a news briefing.

Kuchma, who held a news conference after a 30-minute meeting with Yeltsin in the Barvikhia sanatorium outside Moscow where the Russian president is preparing for heart surgery, said the meeting was useful but stopped short of giving any details.

"We were talking with Boris Nikolayevich [Yeltsin] about how to defuse the situation rather than to corner any party," Kuchma told the news conference. "We agreed it is up to the [negotiating] delegations to work it out."

Neither Kuchma nor Yastrzhembsky gave details of agreements reached at the talks.

The future of the Crimean port of Sevastopol, the fleet's home base for more than 200 years, is certainly the most tricky issue.

Moscow wants Ukraine to base its navy elsewhere and Russia to be in full possession of the Sevastopol base. Ukraine says the base and a string of harbors give enough space for both fleets - Russian and Ukrainian.

Several deals have been announced in the past, but the fate of the fleet has not yet been settled and the problem is a continuing irritant for both countries.

Earlier in the day, the State Duma, Russia's lower house of parliament, warned Ukraine that Moscow would never cede control of Sevastopol. On Wednesday, the Duma overwhelmingly passed a draft law stopping the fleet being divided.

Parliamentary experts have said there is little chance Yeltsin will sign the draft into law.

"We live in a transitional period and we should treat our parliament with some understanding," Kuchma said. "Let us forgive them for such decisions."

Yeltsin promised Kuchma in a televised statement that his first official visit after he had recovered from heart surgery planned for next month would be to Kiev to sign a long-awaited agreement on relations between the two major Slav states.

The Israel Interfaith Association and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation intend to organize a number of discussion evenings this year on the subject of "My God." In this framework we will invite philosophers, religious leaders and public figures who will tell us about their religious conception, belief in God, and the way this influences their life and surroundings. The first evening of discussion will take place on Thursday, October 31, 1996 at 7 p.m. in the Notre Dame Center (opposite the New Gate). Among the participants: - Monsignor Dr. Mathes, Director of the Notre Dame Center and Cultural Attache of the Apostolic Delegation - Professor Michael Rosenak, Department of Education of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem Moderator: - Dr. Gerhard Wahlers, Representative of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation in Jerusalem. The evening will be concluded with a reception. The discussion will be held in Hebrew and English with simultaneous translation.

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We extend condolences to our colleague Rachel Cohen on the passing of her beloved mother FARHA NAKAR May the Almighty comfort her with the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem. The Staff and Management of The Jerusalem Post

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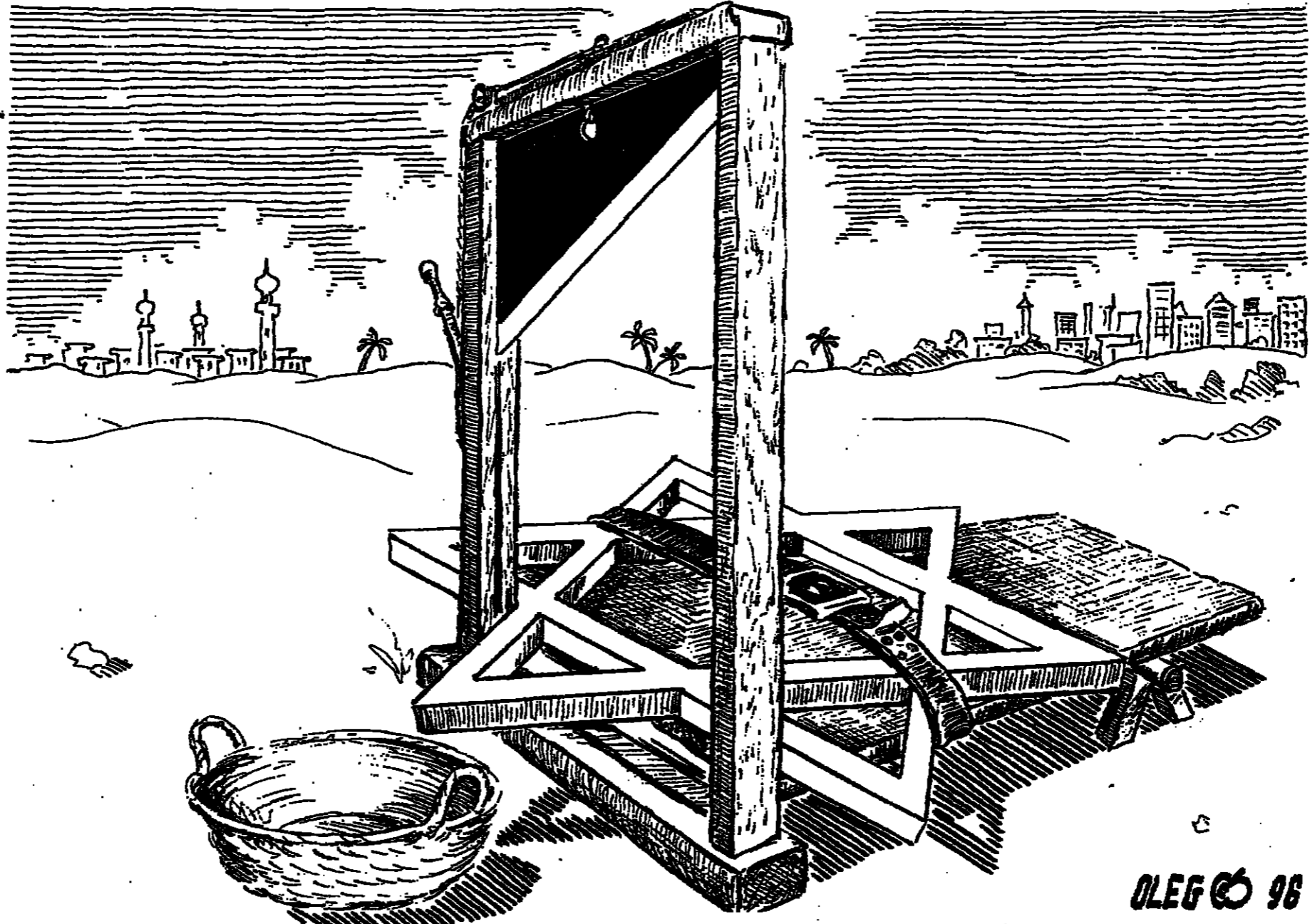
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NEWS IN FOCUS

Friday, October 25, 1996

Behind Chirac's foreign policy activism

Jacques Chirac's muscular foreign-policy posturing this week was a shift from his predecessor's position. As David Makovsky writes, Chirac's stance is driven by dreams of former French glory and future Arab dollars



OLEG 96

ONE French thinker sought to explain why his country stubbornly clings to its own notion of an independent foreign policy with a paraphrase of Descartes' famous aphorism: "I intervene, therefore I am."

That may explain French President Jacques Chirac's visit this week, which was accompanied by both figurative and literal bumps, ranging from a preliminary plan to overlook the Knesset, plans to spend virtually no time at the Western Wall, and not hosting a reception for Israelis while doing so for Palestinians. All these points ultimately were corrected, even though a metaphor for the trip became the tussle between Chirac and security guards in the Old City, when the Israeli guards thought they were protecting the French leader.

Many Israelis also grinded their teeth when Chirac, to the roosting applause of the Palestinian legislature in Ramallah on Wednesday, made it clear that Jerusalem must be part of any peace deal. "There cannot be a peace that excludes the city of peace," he said. Earlier in the week, during a speech at the Technion, Chirac reiterated traditional French support for a Palestinian state.

There's nothing novel in French advocacy of Arab positions, but what is different is Chirac's determination for the French to gain greater influence in the region. The Middle East seems to be the centerpiece of Chirac's efforts to imitate France's post-war leader, Charles de Gaulle, and to distance

French foreign-policy positions from those of the US - a tendency that has become increasingly evident in recent months. There are indications France's desire to play a greater role in the Middle East. Still, France likes to emphasize its interest more in terms of history and its "natural" role as a "Mediterranean power."

If one had to trace France's decision to be more of an activist in the region, one would find it in Chirac's rise to the presidency last year. During the 14 years before Chirac, Francois Mitterrand basically was not interested in contesting American leadership. Dominique Moisi, a leading Paris-based analyst of French foreign

policy recently wrote, "Under Mitterrand, France had largely become a status quo power, beyond the rhetorical call for change in the southern hemisphere." Chirac wants to rock the boat of the established order and to break away from his predecessor by temperament and calculus. A Gaullist, Chirac is seeking to revive the role that de Gaulle sought to carve out for France by retaining the country's independence in foreign affairs. For de Gaulle, this meant a certain contrariness, avoiding US-led coalitions such as the military structure of NATO. Moisi wrote that Chirac is seeking a "modernized Gaullist formula for independent French action."

Europeans say that by emphasizing France's own foreign policy, Chirac is not just emphasizing the country's national identity, but also reviving the grandeur of the times

when France was a world power. As Dr. Gunter Joetze, a former diplomat who was very active in promoting European cooperation and now heads a German think-tank, put it this week, "when Chirac says he wants to revive a grand Arab policy, emphasis should be placed on the word grand." In the Middle East, a pivotal point for French involvement came last spring when France - ignoring calls by the US and Israel to stay out - insisted on a peace-making role after Operation Grapes of Wrath and on being part of the monitoring group dealing with cease-fire violations in southern Lebanon. Israel also was irritated last month by the timing of Chirac's support for Yasser Arafat in the aftermath of the opening of a new exit to the Hasmonean tunnel. As Palestinian Authority police were

shooting at Israeli troops, France issued a formal statement saying Chirac had phoned Arafat to express his "support and solidarity." The latest French bid for a role is its desire for the appointment of a European (preferably French) envoy to the Middle East, alongside the current US effort. US special Middle East envoy Dennis Ross disagreed, though in his usual quintessentially diplomatic style. When asked about a European envoy this week at a Jerusalem press conference, Ross said, "I think it is important when you are in a delicate stage of a negotiating process for all those who want to be helpful to find the best ways to be supportive. Right now, I think that it is generally agreed, not only by the parties, but by others, that the effort that we are making is the one that they support."

Publicly, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu sought to brush off the French suggestion gently, saying "too many cooks spoil the broth." Privately, Israeli officials were less diplomatic. They were amazed France could even consider itself an honest broker in peace talks, given the fact that Paris supports Arab demands almost down the line on sensitive issues of security and territory. At the same time, other officials seemed hopeful that Europe, including France, might be useful in supporting multilateral forums like a Middle Eastern version of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

In his Technion speech this week, Chirac said Israel can only benefit from France's ties with the Arabs. This may be true in terms of gaining the thinking of the other side, but officials say this does not qualify France to be a mediator. In summing up Chirac's trip to the region, officials say there were pluses and minuses. On one hand, it's clear that after Chirac agreed to reschedule Syria's loans to the Middle East, Syrian President Hafez Assad responded in kind. During no less than 14 hours of talks, Assad apparently softened his positions, which officials believe may bring the unconditional resumption of moribund peace talks with Israel - though that's still subject to independent confirmation, sources say. Furthermore, since France is seen as the most pro-Palestinian force in Europe, its agreement to downgrade its representation to Orient House this week is expected to be followed by others. Already there are reports that British Foreign Minister Malcolm Rifkind, who will visit shortly, will not go to Orient House. On the minus side, officials say the more Arafat hears of French support for his positions, the less likely he is to compromise with Israel. Meanwhile, France's interest in

going its own way on the Middle East has not been limited to the peace process. France has been at the forefront in leading European resentment against the new American law that calls for retaliation against foreign companies in the US that do business with Iran, Libya or Cuba. At the same time, it should be said that France is no different from Germany or other European countries in being a believer in a "critical dialogue" with Iran, and so dismisses US ideas of the "dual containment" of Teheran. While Britain and Germany rallied to support last month's US military attacks against Iraq, in response to an Iraqi incursion in Kurdistan, France kept a cool distance. The French daily Le Monde said the French favor isolating the US's Iraq policy, believing this will help Paris the day the Iraqi embargo is lifted. This is not just idle talk, given the financial bonanza expected when there is a reconstruction of Iraq. During a visit to Paris on June 11, Iraqi Oil Minister Amir Rasheed announced France would be one of the first to receive crude-oil supply contracts and made clear that French companies would be given priority in oil-field development deals. "Friendly countries who have supported us, like France and Russia, will certainly be given priority," Rasheed said. France upset the US and other allies by reestablishing a limited diplomatic presence in Baghdad last year. Rasheed, who met with French Industry Minister Franck Borotra as well as with representatives of leading French companies during his trip, went so far as to say that talks with companies on oil development were in a "very advanced" stage. According to the London-based Financial Times, Rasheed indicated France is ready to sign \$4 billion in contracts with Iraq once the UN embargo is lifted. Quiet talks between Baghdad and French companies Total and Elf Aquitaine on oil-field development have been going on for a few years. Furthermore, a 40-member delegation representing the Confederation of French Industries and Services International went to Baghdad to ensure that French exporters get in on the ground floor once the oil embargo is lifted. So far, the embargo remains, and even the partial lifting of the embargo for humanitarian purposes originally scheduled for last month is on hold due to the Iraqi intervention to Kurdistan. Yet, oil is not the only French interest in the country's relations with Iraq. In the past, France provided Iraq with everything from arms, nuclear technology and credits. According to the Stockholm International Peace Research

Institute that monitors international arms transactions, France sold Iraq more than \$5b. of major weapons systems between 1980 and 1989. Among the French arms sold to Iraq then were Dassault jet fighters, Gazelle assault helicopters, and Milan anti-tank rockets. France also loaned Iraq advanced Super-Etendard jets equipped with Exocet air-sea missiles. It may be noted that the Dassault aerospace company was so grateful for being allowed to sell jet fighters to Iraq that it donated a Paris mansion as an Iraqi cultural center. It may also be recalled that Iraq's Osirak nuclear reactor, which was bombed by Israel, was nicknamed "Ochirac" because Chirac was the premier who sold the reactor to the Iraqis in the 1970s. Iraq is not likely to be France's only customer. The French defense company Giat Industries, which is said to have sustained \$2.4b. in losses over the last five years, reportedly said a few months ago that it now hopes to make major tank sales in the Arab world to clear its debt. Moreover, many people saw France's intervention in Grapes of Wrath last spring as reinforcing Paris's position as a leading candidate to make money off the reconstruction of Beirut, which is already in full swing. Economic gains from the reconstruction of Lebanon and Iraq cannot be underestimated for a country like France, which suffers from 12% unemployment. Of course, not everything is about economics for the French. After France shed its bad image in the Arab world by granting independence to its Algerian colony in the 1960s, France decided to adopt a vigorously pro-Arab foreign policy. France went from being Israel's top arms supplier to imposing a total arms embargo, lifted only recently. France now also sees itself as a spokesman for former colonies in North Africa, such as Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia. This week, Chirac defended France's role in the region by pointing to French links with the Levant. Precisely for this reason, Christian Maronite feelings still are bruised by the fact that the French did very little when Syria extended its control over Lebanon in 1990. Despite all the differences between Israel and France in the Middle East, Netanyahu emphasized Chirac's friendship. In fact, the personal relationship between the two men is said to be "warm," dating back to the time Chirac met Netanyahu, even though he was in the opposition and was being snubbed by President Clinton and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. Sources say Chirac also sought to comfort Netanyahu, telling him to ignore polls and media hostility. However, Netanyahu must realize what Clinton already has learned. Clinton also has a very good personal relationship with the French president, but that has not curbed Chirac's foreign policy activism.

Earlier this year, Chirac returned France to NATO after a 30-year absence that had been initiated by de Gaulle. Still, Chirac insisted on greater European control over NATO's command structure. However, last month, Defense Secretary William Perry made clear the US will not yield to French requests on such a sensitive matter, and White House officials noted this week that the southern European command is tied to US interests in the Middle East and, therefore, the French idea was out of the question. Just last week, France blasted a plan favored by Secretary of State Warren Christopher for a crisis-response force composed of African troops for situations that arise on that continent. Jacques Godfrain, France's minister for foreign cooperation, ridiculed the idea as an election tactic designed to curry favor with American black voters. "I am delighted to see the president showing interest in Africa and making it a priority three weeks before the presidential election," Godfrain said. State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns called Godfrain's statement "outrageous, unfounded, and unjustified."

Despite the increasing US-French rivalry, Jim Hoagland, a veteran France-watcher and columnist for The Washington Post, thinks things won't develop into a major confrontation. Recently, Hoagland wrote of France's quest for "glory and image of autonomy." Others usually shrug their shoulders and just say, "the French will be French."

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Croatia watches as Iran arms Bosnia

Croatia, worried about inroads made by Islamic fundamentalism, is seeking assistance from Israel, Steve Rodan reports from Split

NJKA Cipci looks out the window of his fourth-floor office at police headquarters, toward the busy docks of this Croatian port city.

Many of the arriving shipments are marked as containing food and medicine. But Cipci, police commander of the Split region since 1993, knows better. He acknowledges that many of these shipments might contain weapons heading for neighboring Bosnia. "The humanitarian convoys that come through this city are very difficult to control," he says in an interview in his office in Split. "It would be very stupid to believe that all the convoys are humanitarian."

Croatian officials say Iran is sending large supplies of weapons to Bosnia for what both they and regional diplomats assess will be an offensive by Sarajevo, backed up by thousands of members of Teheran's Revolutionary Guard, to capture territory now held by the Serbian minority. They say the Iranian deliveries usually arrive by boat to Split, and then are driven through Croatia to landlocked Bosnia.

"This has been a meeting point between East and West," Cipci said. "Everything has gone through Split, including all of the arms."

But even as they worry about Teheran, Croatian officials acknowledge that they are allowing the Iranian arms supply to Bosnia, in an arrangement in which Zagreb

obtains badly-needed oil as well as a selection of the thousands of light arms, mortars and other weapons headed for Sarajevo. "Iran is moving into the region on a big scale," a European diplomat based in Zagreb says. "It is investing and influencing events, not only in Bosnia, but in Croatia as well."

Publicly, Iranian officials play down the Iranian connection, saying arms supplies are no longer a factor. But privately, a senior Croatian official says Teheran sells oil to Zagreb in return for Croat ships, built in Split. "The Europeans don't seem to want us, and we had to live during the embargo," the official says. "So, Iran was the option. This is a commercial relationship, not a military one."

CROATIA, with 4.8 million people and with the lowest debt of all the former Yugoslav republics, hopes to widen its military relationship with the US, despite what diplomats say is Washington's concern over Zagreb's ties with Iran.

US military trainers are in Croatia organizing its military of 40,000 regular troops. They are augmented by a reservist force of 400,000.

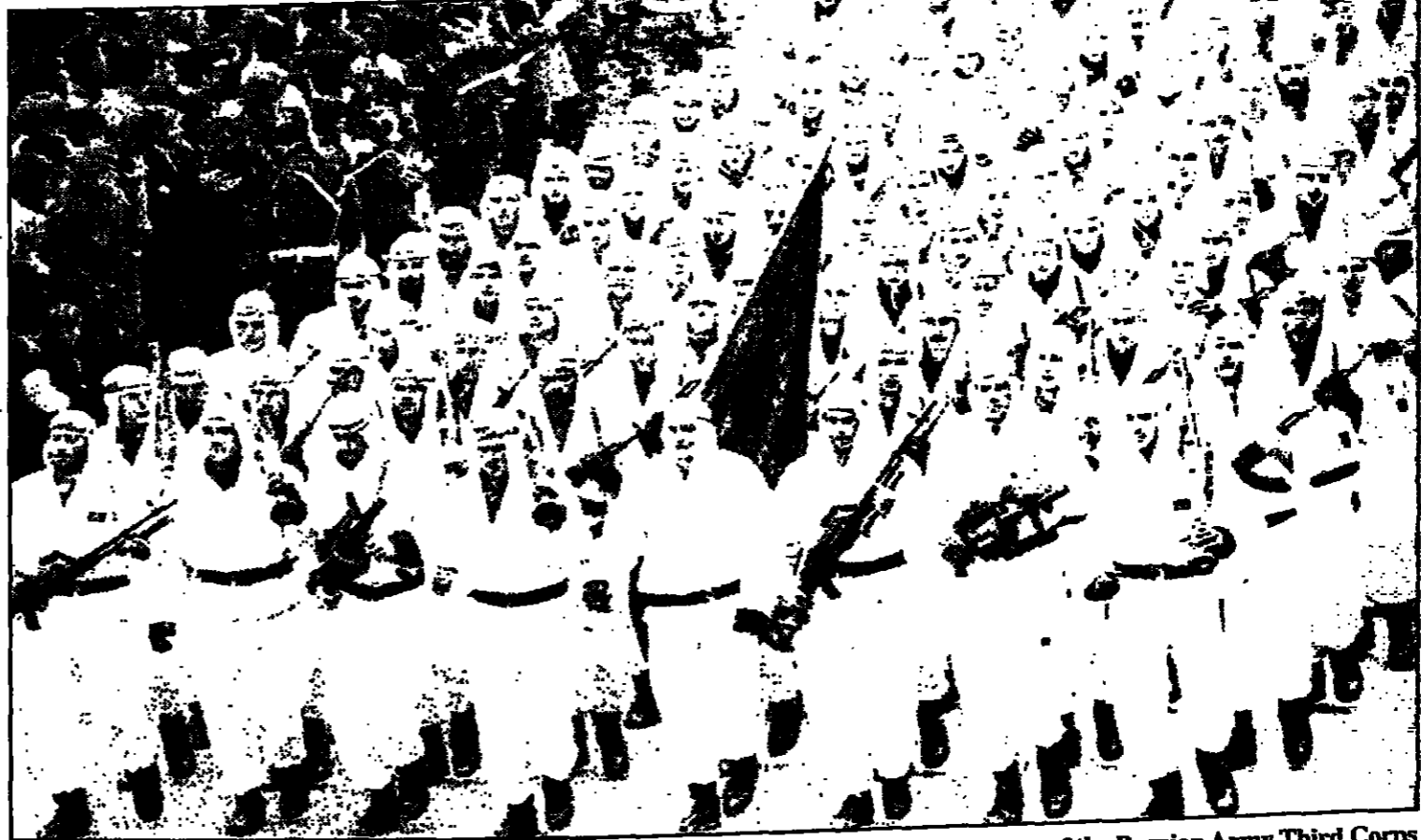
Officials say they're concerned that renewed fighting could torpedo the US-sponsored Dayton agreement reached earlier this year and ruin Croat efforts to rebuild the economy, particularly in attracting tourism.

NATO's Implementation Force now has 52,000 troops in Bosnia. But US President Bill Clinton has promised to withdraw American troops by the end of the year, and NATO military planners say that could affect their plans to keep a follow-on force that would be about half of the current international military presence.

Officials regard Israel as a key to the Croat defense strategy. They point to what they say are the similarities of the two countries: beleaguered pro-Western democracies with Muslims as their neighbors.

Deputy Science Minister Jure Zovko says his government plans to send a delegation to Israel next year to study, among other things, its defense and hi-tech industries. "We have a lot to learn from Israel on how to survive," he says.

Diplomatic sources say Israel has been a factor in the region since the 1990 Yugoslav civil war began. Officially, the Israeli government has observed the UN arms embargo in the region, but ex-Israeli army officers have been supplying several sides in the conflict. Today, Israel and Croatia are preparing to establish diplomatic relations, a move officials say will prompt formal arms sales to Zagreb. Until now, Israel has refused Croat entreaties to establish relations following a 1989 book written by Franjo Tudjman, today's Croatian president, which cast doubts on whether six million



Bosnian soldiers of the 7th Moslem Brigade parade during the celebration of the 3rd anniversary of the Bosnian Army Third Corps in Zenica, central Bosnia in 1995.

Jews died in the Nazi Holocaust. Tudjman has corrected the book, *Wastelands of Historical Reality*, and Croatian honorary consul in Israel Dan Baran says this will result in an imminent decision by Jerusalem to establish diplomatic ties with Zagreb.

A Croatian diplomatic source says Israel is being considered as a contractor for the upgrading of Russian tanks and fighter-jets, which Zagreb would buy cheaply on the world market. This would be an alternative to the much more expensive option of buying new Western systems. "This is undoubtedly a direction we want to move in," the source says.

Croat officials are hoping that

Israel will help Zagreb, if only to decrease Iranian influence in the region. "Croatia does not see Iran as its first choice but it needs friends and help badly," a Croat diplomat says. "Croatians are also working in Iraq and Libya, also because of the lack of other options."

But some Croat officials suggest that even if Israel agrees, Zagreb's relations with the Jewish state will be low-key, particularly in the military field. They point to the Moslem-Croat federation in Bosnia as a factor in determining the intensity of future ties between Jerusalem and Zagreb.

"Israel is always there. But we don't want to be seen as enemy of

the Arabs because of Bosnia," Tourism Minister Nico Bulic said earlier this month.

VESNA Girardi Jurkic, Croatia's ambassador to UNESCO in Paris, suggests that her country's ties to Iran will continue, regardless of any new friends it makes. "We must exchange goods," she said. "We can't stop developing. But we must not be linked by any contract."

Croat officials say they might soon be faced with the question of how costly their Iranian relationship will end up being. One concern is that Serbia will see the entry of Iran in the region together with Croat cooperation as being directed

against Belgrade; with Teheran's weapons being delivered and stored in preparation for an eventual offensive to capture more territory from the heavily-armed Serbian minority. "I think we will have similar problems with Islamic fundamentalism," Zovko, the deputy science minister, says. "They will try to assert influence here. On the other hand, this country has to stay democratic."

"We have a lot of Moslem refugees from Bosnia and if you see their schoolbooks, it is pretty problematic in that they're fundamentalist. Before the war, Bosnia was pro-European. Now it's fundamentalist. I'm afraid there will be problems for Croatia."

Arafat and the PA are winning the PR war

The Hebron casbah seems more relaxed as Palestinians feel the peace process is going their way, Jon Immanuel writes

THE Hebron casbah is one of the best places from which to observe the peace process today. That warren of confusing alleys with barrels of colorful spices to excite the eyes and butchered goats to nauseate other senses seems like a haven of sanity compared with what's outside.

Jews do not venture into the casbah much nowadays. Looking along the last dark alleyway to the bright light at the end, it is not difficult to see why. Border Police jeeps rev up and down alongside the mosque-synagogue-mau-

soleum modeled by Herod on the Second Temple, its outline scarred on the casbah side by guard boxes and thick black cables carrying power to the searchlights.

The sound of soldiers and settlers shouting reveals a violent world out there. (Residents of the casbah try to avoid that exit. It means searches and the occasional taunt.) It is the sound of nervousness, fear of the unknown. The words on every settler's lips is "Tarpax," the Hebrew year corresponding to 1929, when 67 Jews were slaughtered by Arabs in two

days and Jewish settlement in Hebron came to an end for 40 years.

Slaughter is not exactly unknown inside the casbah. Several Jews have been stabbed there. And the people who live near the exit, which leads to the Ibrahimiyeh Mosque, the Moslem name for the Cave of Machpela, lost many relatives in the massacre there by Baruch Goldstein during Ramadan in 1994.

They have come to terms with it, or at least do not speak with the same anger as Jews recalling

events decades ago.

"My father is in Eden," 12-year-old Rana Wardah says with a smile.

The lack of bitterness seems to reflect a rising sense of confidence. While Hebron Jews warn everyone of the calamity awaiting them, one does not hear of clashes between Palestinians supporting and opposing the Oslo Accords.

Nobody now is bad-mouthing Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat, who was being mocked in Hebron a few months ago for having agreed to keep set-

tlers in Hebron and letting them keep 20 percent of the city so that the IDF could defend them. It seemed then that the whole town supported Hamas. But today, when Arafat is engaged in talks which will give Palestinians less authority there than before, no one bears him a grudge.

THE REASON it seems is that everyone sees Arafat is winning the public-relations war with Israel, and that is a crucial matter for Palestinians, who sometimes put the recognition of the world before anything else. French President Jacques Chirac's visit and his address to the Palestinian Legislative Council is just the first fruit of a new world opinion. But Chirac will be remembered more for the way he put down Israeli security concerns in the casbah of

Jerusalem.

Arabic newspapers all showed Chirac in an angry confrontation with an Israeli security man. Since security is Israel's main political concern, Chirac's characterization of it in a specific instance as a "provocation... there is no danger" raises doubts about Israel's perspective when it delays re-employment in Hebron for ostensible security reasons.

Arafat was quick to point this out at his press conference after Chirac's address, which examined the issue. Chirac said Israelis must become convinced that peace will bring security and Arafat said "peace can bring security, but security alone cannot bring peace."

So far has Arafat come in this public relations war that his explicit linking of "struggle, fight, jihad" in a speech at the Dehaishe refugee camp Monday night hardly raised an eyebrow. Neither did his call to impoverished families to raise bigger families of 10 or 12 children. Yet it recalled statements about flooding the area with Palestinians until the Jews get fed

up and leave, which he is alleged to have made in Stockholm to Arab foreign ministers earlier this year.

The very mention of jihad six months ago would have sent the Likud opposition into a frenzy. Now it is passed off as rhetoric. The precedent of a shooting war between soldiers and Palestinian police has made the option of Palestinian violence so palpable that harping on Arafat's statements seems pointless. Israel knows it cannot score political points off them because its opinion holds its delays and world provocations or misjudgments to be responsible for the outbreak of recent acts of violence. To draw attention to Arafat's statements in order to delay the process won't work.

The developing accord on Hebron will not improve Israel's credibility. The security to be gained from the changes will be small. Though Palestinians can argue they have made serious concessions in agreeing to carry pistols in certain areas of Hebron, how can Israel constantly monitor the exact location of every rifle in the 400-man police force?

The Palestinians have agreed to limit the size of new buildings in the Jewish residential areas. But this is hardly a concession as the PA will want to construct as many buildings as possible to prevent an expansion of Jewish building, and therefore it makes more sense for Arafat to build 10 one-story buildings rather than one 10-story building.

Since Israel for internal political reasons will say these things are victories for the new government's policy, it will find itself obliged to make concessions in other areas on the basis of its own principle of reciprocity. Again, the government won't reap much credit.

There is surprisingly little Palestinian opposition to the delay in implementing the Hebron agreement because of the reasonableness with which it presents the Palestinian position. The usually dour Dr. Haidar Abdel-Shafi, one of Arafat's sharpest critics, says he is not interested in the details of the Hebron talks, despite his scathing criticism of Arafat for having agreed to let settlements remain, especially those in the center of Arab-populated areas, and most especially Hebron.

"The Hebron agreement is not important in itself. It is only a means for going forward to discuss the agreement as a whole," he said after hearing Chirac call for a Palestinian state.

There is a sense that the government's position is thawing and that peace is possible with the Netanyahu government, but that it is indefensible and the international community will step in.

Indeed, outside the Jewish quarter, people are bemused.

"Israel wants to stay up there on Abu Snehneh," grocer Nidal Abu-Hadid said, pointing to a hill 300 meters away overlooking the old city where Israel wants to post troops. "They're right. The Abu-Snehnehs have a lot of weapons up there. But who's going to help the soldiers up there?"

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מאמר מן אלאס

Knowing what to weep for: The Holocaust and four generations of Israelis

Last week's conference on The Holocaust In Education, held in Jerusalem, reveals that interest in the subject is at an all-time high, Wendy Elliman reports

OVER 50 years after World War II ended, Israelis are more preoccupied with the Holocaust than ever before. Scarcely a day passes without an article, news story or press report in the media. In the past 10 years, more Hebrew-language books have been printed on the Holocaust than on any other subject. Feature films and documentaries on Holocaust-related topics fill our screens. Establishment and fringe theaters in Israel perform plays on Holocaust topics to capacity audiences, increasingly exploring the scars and traumas of the children and grandchildren of survivors.

Dr. Nili Keren, head of the Holocaust Teaching College in Tel Aviv continues: Since the mid-1980s, more than 30,000 Israeli youngsters have visited Nazi death camps in Poland, often with their parents and grandparents. More Israeli 12th-graders write their final history papers on Holocaust topics than on any other. Tenth-graders at the Rehavia Gymnasium in Jerusalem this year have chosen to research selected Holocaust issues as a one-year project. High-school graduates in Ma'aleh Adumim are studying the Holocaust in an intensive ongoing seminar at their local community center. And the number of high-school teachers applying for in-service training in Holocaust studies has rocketed from 60 in 1992 to 500 during the current academic year.

Why? According to Keren, also an academic consultant to last week's international conference, this massive revival of interest comes from what Holocaust academics refer to as the third generation - the grandchildren of the first or survivor generation.

"These youngsters sincerely want to know what happened," she says. "And this includes children from Sephardi backgrounds as well. They have a far greater sense that this is the history of their own people, and knowing about it can help them cope better with the question of 'who am I?' This is an about-face from the attitude of the second generation - the children of the survivor generation.

Second-generation Sephardim felt little connection with the Holocaust, and for the Ashkenazim, there was often too much pain or guilt in hearing what had happened to their parents. In any case, many of the parents couldn't or didn't want to tell them."

This interest and compassion among third-generation Israelis comes at a time when more survivors are ready to speak out. With time running out for the aging community, many who've held their silence for decades feel the heavy responsibility of bearing witness and preserving memory. The lives of the survivors are approaching a biological end, but their legacy needs to continue.

This change has taken place within a wider framework of Israel, as a nation coming to terms with its Holocaust past, says Avner Shalev, chairman of the directorate of Yad Vashem. "At first, the Israeli response to the Holocaust was confused," he says.

"From 1948 until the 1960s, there was profound mourning and intense bewilderment about how to honor the memory of the dead. This clashed with the ethos of the emerging Israeli society, which was then in what you could term its heroic period. Israelis were building a new country and a new society, developing a new Jew, providing refuge to Jews from all over the world."

"This new secular society had no use for the Jew as victim, and it didn't use classical Jewish tools to cherish its memories and time-honored philosophical, theological and religious tools, such

as the Pessah Haggada which commemorates the Exodus from Egypt. In any case, the Holocaust had shattered those tools." Yad Vashem, created by a 1953 Act of Knesset, was mandated to memorialize the Holocaust. While today it is a multi-faceted institution, its growth reflects its development: The first building was the archives and library, the second was its Remembrance Hall. Memorials followed: To heroism, to the children who perished, to destroyed Jewish communities; and only in the mid-1980s came its educational programs.

"Yad Vashem's most important contribution at the beginning was that it provided a place in Jerusalem to preserve the memory," says Shalev. "The two emphases it adopted during this early period were those that suited Israeli society as it was then: from Holocaust to rebirth, and Jewish heroism during the Holocaust."

During the 1960s and 1970s, especially following the Six Day War, Israeli society grew increasingly pluralist, more tolerant, more open to the Diaspora and more receptive to the differing cultures it had absorbed. Questions of Jewish identity were raised and discussed, and Holocaust researchers looked more deeply into Jewish reaction to the Holocaust.

By the 1980s, Israel was, once more, a changed country. The economy had flowered, technology leapt ahead and the early bristly self-confidence of Israelis was somewhat modified. By now, the third generation was on stage, the population of survivors had begun speaking out in large numbers, and the Holocaust had become far more of an issue in the non-Jewish world as well. Holocaust denial was scarcely referred to at the conference, as being an influential issue. It is also during the past two

decades that the Holocaust became a political reference point, and as such entered into the Israeli-Arab dialogue. "The centrality of the Holocaust in Israel's political life, half a century after it ended, is evident," says Keren. "Even now that Israel is a strong country, well able to defend itself, every threat brings the Holocaust back into public discourse."

A pivotal question now facing Israel is: How do we continue to present the Holocaust, especially at a time when the generation of

witnesses is dying? One very basic change, according to Shalev, is that the period of building memorials and symbols is over. "What we must do now," he says, "is concentrate on tools which will preserve knowledge of the Holocaust."

Sixteen years ago, the Knesset approved the only amendment ever made to Israel's 1952 Education Law, requiring Israeli high schoolers to be taught "the events of the Holocaust and its lessons."

Interest in the Holocaust has, however, superseded the legisla-

tive directive, according to Keren.

"Teachers dedicate many more than the required number of hours to teaching Holocaust history. Junior high schools also conduct projects and seminars, as well as personal research in a project called Roots.

"Even elementary-school and kindergarten teachers today are looking for materials and programs they can adapt. Teacher training colleges demanded courses for teachers, with a semester in the History of the Holocaust now part of the gener-

al professional training. Israeli Arab teachers have recently joined their colleagues, with a special textbook on teaching the Holocaust created in Arabic.

A corollary of this new emphasis on Holocaust education, outside Israel as well as in, is the key question of whether the Holocaust is a unique or a universal event. It was rooted to a specific time, a specific place and a specific people.

At the same time, it fundamentally challenges the foundations on which human civilization rests, and has generated a credi-

Academic meets survivor

HISTORY is not, by nature, an emotional discipline. Holocaust history, however, is alive and raw, even half a century on.

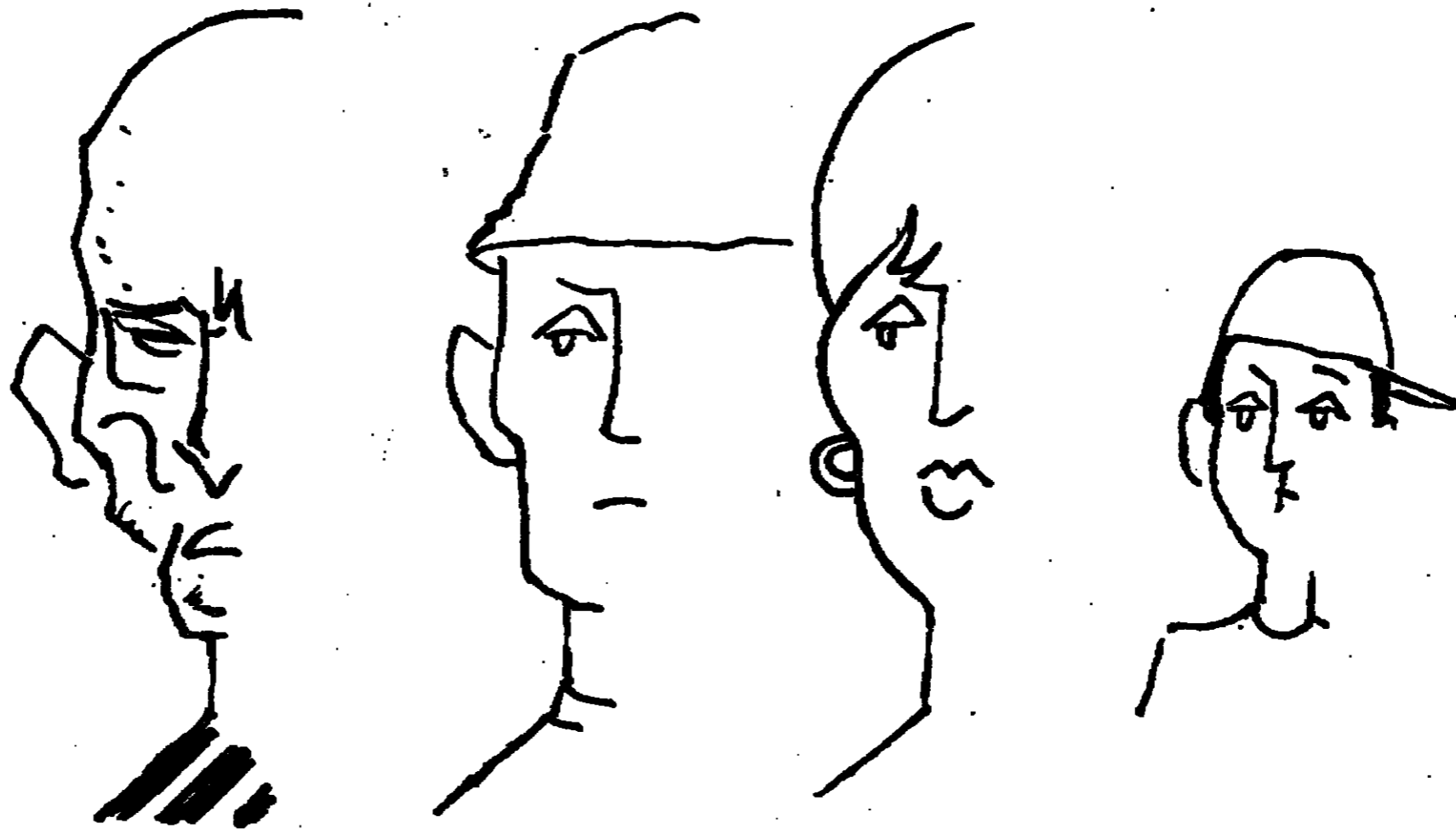
In his learned survey of changing Israeli attitudes toward the Holocaust at last week's conference, Avner Shalev, who chairs Yad Vashem's directorate, referred to the perception of Europe's Jews trailing like lambs to the slaughter.

Among his audience of researchers, educators and academics, however, were a number of survivors, one of whom, at least, took deep offense.

"During the discussion that followed, she challenged him: 'You can talk about us as much as you like, but have you ever thought what you would have done during an Aktion, during a selection, under guns and dogs? Ask yourself that!'"

"At one time, no one wanted to hear us. Now everyone does. You want our documents and our photographs, you want our souvenirs and our memories. And you call us lambs who went passively to the slaughter!"

Shalev apologized profusely, offering that the phrase was not his and he had used it only to illustrate a point. But the survivor's words had changed the atmosphere with a chill of reality. W.E.



MEIR ROMANOFF

Trusting adults to explain the world

LAST week they flocked into Jerusalem from all over Israel and from 18 other countries as well, including Japan, South Africa, Argentina, Brazil, Germany, Poland, Russia, Hungary and Cyprus. Professors of history and Holocaust studies, as well as survivors and teachers.

From more peripheral disciplines came Professor Louis Flanbaum of the Ohio State College of Medicine in Columbus, Ohio, who uses the Holocaust as a vehicle for teaching bioethics to medical students; and Professor Henry Ross of the University of Northumbria who teaches Holocaust history to his sociology students as an ultimate lesson in the evils of prejudice and discrimination.

With the Holocaust today a multidisciplinary topic - part of literature, art, sociology, medicine, philosophy and psychology as well as history, Yad Vashem organized this, its largest conference ever: "to study and discuss educational issues that come to the fore in teaching the Holocaust."

In six sessions and 54 workshops spread over three intensive days, participants learned that these educational issues are emotive, sometimes even explosive, and that they differ widely among different nations. In Russia, for example, the Holocaust is not included in either school or university history courses, despite of, or perhaps because of, an increase in nationalist and fascist propaganda. Lithuania's state education system, however, reformed after independence from the USSR in 1991, has at last begun referring to its victims of fascism as Jews, and is anxious that its young people know what happened under Nazi occupation.

Unfortunately, however, its teachers are, as yet, both under-informed and under-resourced to do the subject justice. In Poland, "where," says Jerzy Tomaszewski, a history professor at the University of Warsaw, "the cruelest camps were sited, where the Jewish tragedy unfolded and where Polish society stood witness, there are reminders of Jewish communities all over the country."

"Even though it's 50 years since the war, and the majority of Poles today were not alive then, the Holocaust remains a news focus for

us. In Polish schools, however, while World War II and genocide are part of the formal history program, the Holocaust itself is not. But with the subject an integral part of the nation's history and memory, Polish teachers generally develop the subject far beyond this minimal requirement. There is Holocaust information in all textbooks now in use, with significant and long-overdue revisions and extensions soon to come."

France, over the years, has re-evaluated its behavior under the Third Reich, and concluded that it is inseparable from its national memory. The French Education Ministry is willing to introduce Holocaust studies into schools, but, says Dr. Laurence Rosengart, an authority on the history of French Jewry, "teachers need to identify with the Holocaust and have some kind of connection with it in order to teach it successfully."

Fifty years too late, France is in the long process of building its Holocaust education.

In Japan, the Holocaust has until recently existed as a single line in the textbooks. The Holocaust Education Center founded last year in Hiroshima aims to "teach children and young people about the Holocaust and educate people who will create peace for the whole world." In post-apartheid South Africa, Holocaust education is a challenging assignment: the obvious parallel between Nazi racial purity and white supremacy raises the key question of whether teaching the Holocaust should serve to clarify other political doctrines, or be an end in itself.

In South American countries, where the liberal-democratic tradition is weak and the Catholic Church is strong - especially in those countries which sheltered Nazis after the war - governments are nevertheless in favor of giving the study of World War II and the Holocaust a more visible place in the curriculum.

Of all places where the Holocaust is taught, the country "where citizens conceived, facilitated, approved, activated or ignored it" is perhaps the most sensitive. Dr. Jacqueline Giere of the Fritz Bauer Institute in Frankfurt-am-Main described to the conference how Holocaust education in Germany

had evolved over the past 50 years. "It differed, of course, in the two Germanies," she said. "In the GDR, teaching focused on socialist and communist resistance to National Socialism. Young people were taken to Buchenwald to pledge resistance to fascism. That is changing only now; a group of East German educators is, in fact, currently in Israel for in-service training at Yad Vashem."

"In West Germany, Holocaust teaching underwent extended development. In the 1950s, teachers either revealed in German successes in World War II or mourned German suffering at Stalingrad. Persecution, murder and Jewish suffering were simply not on the agenda for the majority of teachers who grew up under the Third Reich."

In the 1960s, triggered by the Eichmann trial in Jerusalem, a new awareness began to develop. The legacy of guilt and shame bequeathed by the Holocaust generation was embraced, as colle-

agues in particular grew curious about their parents' past, asking questions and seeking answers. By the 1970s, German teachers were confronting Holocaust history as part of their own self-awakening. They took students to camp memorials such as that at Dachau. The American TV series *Holocaust*, broadcast in West Germany in 1974, grabbed at the consciousness of young Germans.

"By the 1980s, most German teachers were born after the Holocaust, and it was they who began developing Holocaust history curricula as a kind of personal crusade to enlighten their multi-ethnic students in the new Germany," said Dr. Giere. "No textbooks existed, so they looked for documents, witnesses and survivors to impart the honors. By the end of the decade, National Socialism was made a compulsory part of the school history curriculum. Alongside this, a grass-roots movement grew up in towns, villages and neighborhoods across

Germany, searching for traces of the past.

"People began looking on their own city blocks for former Jewish communities, former informers, supporters and resisters. The republic's president chose as his 1984 Pupil's Award essay topic, *Everyday Life Under National Socialism in My Town*. Former Jewish citizens were invited back, and found sympathetic listeners in classrooms."

Holocaust education in Germany, perhaps more than anywhere else, is a tightrope walk between guilt, responsibility and the web of inherited attitude, says Dr. Giere. "Along with mourning the murdered and preserving their memory, Holocaust teaching in Germany emphasizes the behavior of the bystander and the responsibility of the individual to do or not to do. The challenge faced by German educators today is, in the words of one of my students, to enable children once again to trust adults to explain the world to them." W.E.

Israeli Arab teachers and the Holocaust

HOLocaust studies are a mandatory part of teacher training in Israel, and Israeli Arab students join their Jewish colleagues in classes and seminars on Holocaust history.

"Questions that Arab students raise in these courses and in-service training seminars indicate they enter them knowing nothing of the background or events of the Holocaust," says Dr. Nili Keren, who heads the Holocaust Teaching College in Tel Aviv. "But, as the course progresses, their questions come to show an awareness of the importance of teaching Holocaust history to their own population. It also provides an opportunity for Israeli Arabs to express their feelings about Israel and their own problems with the country."

Beyond this, indicates Keren, teaching the Holocaust to Arab professionals serves to open up a wider area. "I believe it's the beginning of something very important," she says. "We start by explaining why the Holocaust is a compulsory study area for Arab students, even though it isn't an Arab issue. "Our message, of course, is that while the Holocaust is a unique event, it has universal implications. And that, I think, is a message that our Arab students have clearly understood." W.E.

OCCUPATION: NAZI-HUNTER

The Continuing Search for Perpetrators of the Holocaust

The renewed interest in the efforts to prosecute the perpetrators of the Holocaust was sparked by revelations that Allied countries such as USA, UK, Canada and Australia had afforded a postwar haven to thousands of Nazi collaborators. Efraim Zuroff, director of the Israel Office of the Simon Wiesenthal Center and coordinator of the Center's research on Nazi war criminals, discusses in his book how Nazi-hunting was revived in the seventies, how it was carried out in the eighties and whether it can continue in the nineties.

Foreword by Rabbi Marvin Hier. Published by KTAV. Hardcover, 374 pp. JP Price NIS 139 Incl. VAT, p.&h. in Israel

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Changing of the congressional guard

As a number of pro-Israel congressmen prepare to retire from service, speculation is rife as to what the upcoming US elections hold for Israel, Hillel Kuttler writes from Washington

ON November 6, mere hours after the Election Day results come in, Hank Brown and his daughter are due to jet off on a two-week vacation in Israel and Egypt.

After about a half-dozen official visits, Brown will be taking his first trip to the region as a private citizen. The Colorado Republican is retiring from Congress after 16 years, the last six as a senator.

Brown, 56, is one of 14 senators voluntarily leaving the job, marking the latest upheaval in a decade of institutional change for Congress.

Already, half the current members of the House and Senate arrived only since 1990. This is a shift with potentially profound consequences for Congress's relations with Israel, Capitol Hill observers say.

"I wouldn't say any of them stand out," said Chuck Brooks, executive director of the National Political Action Committee, when asked about the impact of this year's retiring representatives and senators on Middle East policy.

But the 104th session of Congress was "one of the most pro-Israel Congresses ever," said Brooks, whose organization will disburse about \$600,000 to pro-Israel congressional candi-

dates in both parties.

Even former majority leader and current Republican presidential candidate Robert Dole and others with mixed records on Israel were respected for their "seniority, experience and wisdom," a pro-Israel lobbyist said.

Others, such as Democrat Sam Nunn, an expert on defense matters, did not play a leading role on Israel-related issues but were looked to for the insight they provided.

Most agree that Israel lost its greatest champion last year when Oregon Republican Robert Packwood was forced out of the Senate after a sex scandal.

And while hardly a flashy type, Brown established a strong pro-Israel record.

Since the GOP assumed control of Congress following the 1994 election, Brown headed the Near East subcommittee. He made his mark in legislation encouraging economic ventures between Israel and her Arab partners in the peace process. Brown also wrote a key amendment aimed at weakening the Arab boycott of Israel.

Another key senator who is leaving is Rhode Island Democrat Claiborne Pell. He led the foreign relations committee for eight years and was the



Colorado's Hank Brown is one of 14 senators voluntarily leaving the job.

Charlie Wilson, a key Democratic advocate for Israel-US production of the Hav-Nap/Popeye and Arrow missile systems.

The 1990s have already seen vast turnover, with 110 new members entering the House following the 1992 elections and 86 after the 1994 elections.

Such dramatic reshuffling of the 435-seat chamber challenges organizations such as the American Israel Political Action Committee to forge bonds with newcomers early on.

As it did following the 1992 election, the pro-Israel lobbying group this year met with nearly all of the candidates for congressional seats in order to begin establishing relationships for when the winners assume office.

The significance of the quickly approaching elections extends



A key senator who is leaving is Rhode Island Democrat Claiborne Pell.

beyond the open seats, observers say. Several Senate incumbents who are reliable supporters of Israel are locked in tight races. They include Democrats Carl Levin of Michigan and Iowa's Tom Harkin, and Republicans Mitch McConnell of Kentucky and Larry Pressler of South Dakota.

Other races too close to call are seen by pro-Israel observers as no-lose either way: Democrat incumbent Paul Wellstone versus Republican ex-Senator Rudy Boschwitz in Minnesota; Democrat Robert Torricelli and Republican Dick Zimmer in a battle of congressmen vying for Bradley's seat; and Democrat incumbent John Kerry against Republican Governor William Weld in Massachusetts.

Strongly pro-Israel House incumbents locked in too-close-

to-call races include Democrats Jane Harman (California), Paul McClellan (Pennsylvania), and Ike Skelton (Missouri) - all of whom who serve on the national security committee - and Martin Frost (Texas); along with Republicans Jim Bunn (Oregon), Jon Fox (Pennsylvania), and New Yorkers Peter King and Michael Forbes.

Those races will help determine whether the Republicans maintain control of the Senate, where they have a 53-47 majority, and the House, where they are ahead 235-198. If Democrats retake one or both houses, "there could be turmoil on our key committees," a pro-Israel activist said.

If the Republicans hold on in the Senate, one of Israel's greatest allies, Alaska's Ted Stevens (assuming he retains his seat), would take over the appropriations committee. That is considered a monumental improvement over retiring Oregon Sen. Mark Hatfield, who compiled one of the worst voting records on Israel, particularly in the area of military aid.

If they retain their seats, Jesse Helms and Strom Thurmond would continue chairing the foreign relations and armed services committees, respectively.

Should the Democrats wrest control, Levin could chair armed services with Delaware's Joseph Biden taking foreign relations and Hawaii's Daniel Inouye the defense appropriations subcommittee.

It would also mean that McConnell, who shielded Israel from cuts in the shrinking foreign-aid pie, would lose the foreign operations subcommittee chair. And one of Israel's arch

panel's ranking Democrat in the years the Republicans were in the majority in the 1980s and 1990s.

Pell's strong ties to Israel are an outgrowth of his father Herbert's diplomatic efforts to prosecute Nazi war criminals. It is such historical connectedness that is disappearing with the mass exodus from Capitol Hill this decade.

Other long-time friends of Israel now retiring from the Senate include Democrats Howell Heflin (Alabama), Paul Simon (Illinois), Bennett Johnston (Louisiana), James Exon (Nebraska) and Bill Bradley (New Jersey); and Republican William Cohen (Maine).

Among the 53 House seats opening up, Israel's most prominent loss is seen to be Texan



Among the 53 House seats opening up, Israel's most prominent loss is seen to be Texan Charlie Wilson.

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Strongly pro-Israel House incumbents locked in too-close-

Excitement builds around 'Gore the Bore': Prince Hal, waiting to become Henry V

IF it weren't for Tabasco sauce, there would be almost no spice at all on Al Gore's plate.

The US vice president was settling in for dinner in the private cabin of his Air Force jet after a recent campaign trip to Ohio, and it was the usual no-nonsense, low-fat fare - chicken salad in a pita, pretzels and bottled water.

It was a bland and disciplined meal for a man known for blandness and discipline. His closest brush with gustatory wildness was a splash of Tabasco, which he keeps on the fold-down table and says he uses on "almost anything."

That's about as dangerous as it gets these days with Gore, a focused and driven politician who is eyeing not only his and President Clinton's reelection hopes next month, but also his own presidential plans for 2000. Where Clinton famously indulges his appetites for food, hugs and talk, Gore sticks rigidly to regimens.

He runs 8 km. almost every morning, whether at home or on the road, and lifts weights every other day. He smiles broadly, but invariably looks ill at ease when someone embraces him for a photo. And he never strays into risky conversational waters, either at a campaign lectern or in the off-the-record small talk he makes with reporters in the back of his plane.

Gore was not always so buttoned-down. Four years ago his campaign plane was a flying zoo, its overhead bins crammed with candy and liquor. Journalists and aides decorated their seats with bunting and goofy trinkets, and some did not bother with seat belts or even seats during takeoffs and landings. Gore himself sometimes "aisle-surfed" his way down the plane, standing on a plastic tray during takeoffs and using the plane's thrust and pitch to propel him past rows of cheering aides and camera crews.

It's different this time. Gore

says he has aisle-surfed "a little this year," but aides say it was months ago, before the TV networks and a handful of newspapers began traveling with him regularly.

It's just as well. The fun and frisky charter jet he used as a challenger in 1992 has been replaced by Air Force planes assigned to the vice president, and the uniformed flight crews frown on unbuckled behavior.

Journalists briefly tried to recapture the 1992 spirit, hijacking a portrait of the vice president that a supporter had painted and presented. They christened it the "Velvet Gore" and draped it with prayer beads, bells and unlit incense. Gore laughed good-naturedly at the shrine, but it kept falling, and campaign workers eventually stashed it in an office.

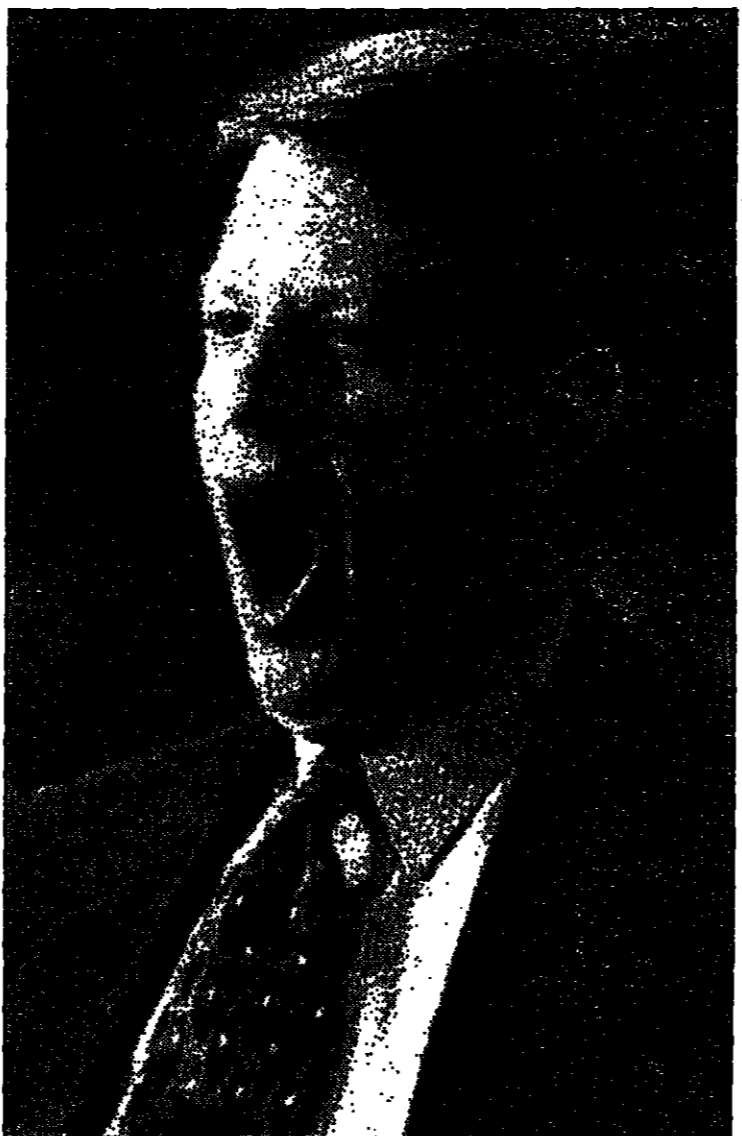
It's as though the press corps, flight crews and staffers instinctively know that the Gore of 1996 - an incumbent vice president who almost surely will contend strongly for the White House in four years - must increasingly show himself as "presidential," and cannot risk even the momentary indulgences of 1992.

The son of a Tennessee senator, Gore was dubbed "Prince Albert" in the 1970s. Now he is more like Shakespeare's Prince Hal, casting off carefree ways to prepare to become Henry V.

Gore insists he is basically the same easy-going campaigner of four years ago, although one who now also must tend to numerous government duties.

"I feel very relaxed on the trail," he said in an interview. "I think just the traditional stiffness is the same."

He laughed loudly, knowing he has turned his famous woodenness into an asset, winning cheers at every campaign stop for his self-deprecating jokes. (Example: "Al Gore is so boring, his Secret Service code name is Al Gore." Actually, it's Sundance).



Gore: If you're stiff, make stiff jokes. If people ever stop seeing me as stiff, I'm going to be in big trouble. I'll have to get a whole new routine. But luckily there's no danger.

"Lemonade!" Gore explained. "If you have lemons, make lemonade. If you're stiff, make stiff jokes. If people ever stop seeing me as stiff, I'm going to be in big trouble. I'll have to get a whole new routine. But luckily there's no danger."

Aides acknowledge Gore seems even more careful now than he was four years ago. But they attribute that largely to his

being a heartbeat away from the presidency rather than a vice-presidential hopeful.

"He can move markets with a few comments," said one staffer, referring to the key role Gore plays in administration decisions on technology, telecommunications and other areas.

Another aide said Gore "is extraordinarily disciplined." For example, the aide said, Gore has willed himself to tame a once-fiercy temper, knowing that a hasty word could undo him in the hothouse atmosphere of a presidential campaign.

Gore displays the fruits of his discipline daily. He is briefed thoroughly before every campaign stop, and weaves the names of towns and local Democrats into his basic stump speech.

Every now and then, Gore's blue eyes flash a hint that he might blurt out an impulsive thought. Reporters seize their notepads hopefully, but it's usually for naught. Recently asked about Republican attacks on Hillary Rodham Clinton, Gore grabbed his lapels as though he would throw off his jacket and start bawling. But he straightened himself and gave the same even-tempered answer he has given before. "The president and first lady," he said, "have been the targets of some of the most vicious personal attacks in this century of American politics." Republicans should campaign on policies, not personalities, he said.

Hours later, journalists, Secret Service agents and Gore staffers climbed back onto the plane for the trip home.

Up front, no doubt, the vice president was splashing Tabasco on another low-fat entree. For now, it's about as wild and wacky as he'll get.

(The Washington Post)

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הלאה מן האלף

Holding a grudge against Diaspora Jewry

AGAINST THE GRAIN
HILLEL HALKIN

"Thank you for your talk. It was honest but depressing. What a bleak picture you painted! If you're right, it's so sad." They stood around me - these three or four pained Jews - after a talk I gave three weeks ago at York University in Toronto, at a surprisingly well-attended conference, entitled "Creating The Jewish Future."

The topic of the session I addressed was *The Centrality of Israel in the Jewish World*, and the bottom line of what I said was that this centrality was being lost and that there was nothing to be done about it. My concluding words to the predominantly Canadian Jewish audience were: "I have my home; you have yours. Each is central to whoever lives in it, and that's the way it should be."

I hadn't meant these words to be depressing, bleak, or sad. I had actually written them with a sense of relief, of having finally laid down a burden that I had been walking around with for too long. It wasn't my intention to drop it on anyone's toes.

The burden was of the anger that I've been walking around with ever since I settled in Israel in 1970. Although in recent years I've noticed that it's beginning to weigh less, throughout this period I've been angry with Diaspora and American Jews. Many of us have been: For their not coming to live with us; for their not shouldering - together with us - responsibility for the grand and perilous adventure that Israel is; for cheering us on from the sidelines while we paid the price and shed the blood.

When, 20 years ago, I wrote my book *Letters To An American Jewish Friend: A Zionist's Polemic*, which caused a minor stir in the American Jewish community at the time, this anger was one of two emotions that impelled me. The other was the hope of contributing, in some small measure, to the creation of an intellectual climate among American Jews in which aliyah would be considered a serious option. The hope disappeared long ago, leaving only the

gradually fading anger. This week in Toronto I felt that I was getting rid of the last of it.

And what, after all, had I said there that wasn't obvious? That the American Jewish and Israeli public agendas were drifting steadily apart; that the only logical or emotionally supportable place to live in if Israel really was central to your existence was Israel itself; that Israel could not possibly provide American Jewish life with the content that it needed in order to sustain itself; that no community could survive in the long run, much less flourish, by means of a vicarious identification with another community; that Jews in Chicago or Toronto would have to find better reasons for being Jews than supporting or worrying about Israel.

The one thing I didn't say, because it did not seem germane to such a forum, was that in return for giving up my anger at these Jews, I would appreciate their flaunting their love for Israel a little less.

And now, they stood around me in a small group, three or four of them, good Jews with good faces in which the pain was palpable. I had hurt them even if they knew I was telling the truth. I was hoping that what I said would be liberating to you too, I said by way of propitiation. But they didn't want to be liberated. They wanted to go on loving Israel.

I tried expounding on my point. "You know, it works the other way too. It's not only we in Israel who have felt angry with you because you've failed to live up to our expectations. It's also you who have felt angry with us, and for the same reason. You want us to be a different, a special, a better place than any other. You want us to live up to some kind of ideal that you have, so that we can make you feel good about yourselves, so that you can point to us and say: 'There, that's what Jews are capable

of when we have a country of our own.' And, when we demonstrate time and again that we're not capable of it, you're disappointed with us and upset. Why don't we spare ourselves all that by going our separate ways? Find something else to be central."

They protested. They knew Israel wasn't perfect. Perhaps its faults bothered them, but they still cared passionately about it. They didn't understand my desire for separation. Why couldn't we go on being one family, they here and I there?

"Because I don't care passionately about you," I blurted out. "Maybe to you in Toronto, it's crucial that we in Israel survive. But to me in Israel, your survival in Toronto is of no importance. I don't mean that I wouldn't want Israel to do something if you were the victims of a pogrom or some such thing.

But whether or not there are Jews in Toronto a hundred years from now is no concern of mine. For my part, Israel is the solution to the Jewish problem. If it's one you don't choose to avail yourselves of, you'll have to solve that problem without me.

"But we're Jews," said a man with a black beard. "Jews! How can you say such a thing?"

"If I didn't," I said, "I'd end up being angry with you all over again."

The three or four of them looked crestfallen. They didn't just want to love Israel; they wanted, in some way, to be loved back. And it was late. The hall was emptying out; we had to say good night.

Ah, yes. My talk had been about other things, too. About Herzl, and Ahad Ha'am, and political versus cultural Zionism, and changing configurations in Israeli and Diaspora society, and what not. I can't even remember it all: I keep thinking of that little group of Jews. Good people, good faces; I can feel the anger mounting in me again. Jews! All I wanted was to get it out of my system at last, and they wouldn't even let me do that.



'Rabin was us...'

A VIEW FROM NOV
MOSHE KOHN

ONE YEAR ago last night on the Jewish calendar, the eve of Marsheshan 12 (the night of November 4 on the Gregorian calendar), messianism-maniac Yigal Amir murdered Yitzhak Rabin.

Amir thought he was thus speeding the biblically prophesied apocalypse that is to herald the Final Redemption. At the very least, he thought he was derailing the Oslo process, a process that not only presumptuous messianists but also many sober people considered and still consider not a peace process, but a march down the road of unilateral surrender.

Amir did not derail the process. Rather, he expedited it in that it made some Jewish voters who might otherwise have voted for Benjamin Netanyahu and a religious or center-right party feel guilty or angry enough to vote for Shimon Peres and for Labor or Meretz. Indeed, some public-opinion surveys in the period before the murder indicated, and some psephologists say, that Rabin was steadily losing public esteem to the extent that if he had lived to run for re-election, he would have lost to Netanyahu by a markedly greater margin than Peres did.

Moreover, subsequent opposition to the Peres-led government's moves were branded as desecration of Rabin's memory and vision, and its critics as virtual accomplices of Yigal Amir.

As we saw, that slander did not avail the Labor Party in the May 29 elections, which Peres lost by 1% of the total vote and 11% of the Jewish vote.

IN THE last three years of his life, Rabin seriously blemished a brilliant record of service to his nation and native land, as soldier, diplomat and statesman.

That blemish is not the Oslo process itself. That was bad enough, and he apparently set out on that path very reluctantly, as a necessary, lesser evil.

He sinned unforgivably in the style and language he used to advance the process. Instead of trying to educate and persuade the public about what he considered the rightness of his chosen path and explaining why he had decided to break a number of election-campaign promises, he charged ahead, shoved or dragged by Peres and Yossi Beilin, and, perhaps, out of a sense of guilt, arrogantly, sarcastically dismissed all criticism and critics.

He branded criticism, even from his own party colleagues, as "hablat'balls" and critics as "enemies of peace."

He sneered at Jewish history, referring to areas of our homeland as "mere real estate" and to the Tanach as "an outdated land register."

He defamed the Judea/Samaria Jewish-return movement, saying it was "aimed at preventing peace," and branded those home-going Jews as "parasites."

He set a tone of discourse that caused his lesser government colleagues - notably Peres and Shulamit Aloni - and the loyal Israeli and Diaspora Jewish news media to think it was open season for demonizing and delegitimizing Orthodox Jews and "settlers" and their supporters.

In this period, Rabin was not merely a "prickly" but really misunderstood, tender person, as some of his admirers suggest. To his Jewish critics he was not just "acerbic," but vicious; not merely "gruff," but foul-mouthed.

Writing in *The New York Times* a week after the assassination, Thomas Friedman said a Rabin aide had told him several weeks earlier: "We estimate that Rabin had personally insulted at least two million Israelis in the past year." And the aide "expected that all two million would vote for Mr. Rabin, because Israelis

loved it when he talked to them that way."

As noted above, the indications at the time were that the vote would not run that way. But the aide was right as far as the Flower Children and X-Generation children were concerned. A graying Flower Child, a priest of the cult of "post-Zionist" Iconoclasm, Yehonatan Gefen, wrote in *Ma'ariv* two days after the murder: "Rabin was the first prime minister who was one of us... the dream of generations... he spoke not from a biblical cassette but the language of children who were born here..."

"Rabin was us..." the first leader who did not declaim visions but spoke like you and me; he was you and me; that's why when he was murdered, something in me was murdered... So to remember him is to remember ourselves and to not surrender our dreams."

A more apt analysis of that terrible happening was offered by novelist Naomi Frenkel (whose "beyond the Green Line" political views and place of domicile long ago lost her the appreciation of our literary and news-media establishments) in that same day's *Yedioth Aharonot*.

In her view, Rabin was the victim "of a divided nation, in which no serious attempt had been made to moderate and balance the debate; of a situation in which all the conventions on which the state of Israel is predicated are disintegrating; ... in which fateful decisions concerning the individual citizen and our society as a whole are being decided by the margin of a single vote."

Divided nation - a division fostered by Rabin and his colleagues.

Disintegrating conventions -

All Zionists merit the land and God

SHABBAT SHALOM
SHLOMO RISKIN

"And God appeared to Abraham and said: 'To your descendants will I give this land,' and there he built an altar to God who had appeared to him." (Gen. 12:7)

IT IS no secret that often the most bitter struggles in Israel are not between Jew and Arab but rather between Jew and Jew. There is often a feeling of profound resentment among the religious community towards the non-observant. Religious leaders in Israel often look down on the non-observant, and sometimes even question the very Jewishness of those who frown upon the most basic Jewish laws.

But, according to Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik, such perceptions are misleading. In a small work published in 1964 under the title *Five Discourses*, Rabbi Soloveitchik maintained a readiness to sacrifice one's life for the Land not only gives one a share in it, but also earns one a share in God - even for those who claim they do not believe in Him.

As paradoxical as this sounds, Rabbi Soloveitchik argues this thesis by drawing our attention to the role of sacrifice in all relationships, not just between humans and God but even between parents and children, and husband and wife.

This week's portion, *Lech Lecha*, opens with God's first commandment to Abraham: "Get thee forth from your country, and from your kindred, and from your father's house to the land I will show you." (Gen. 12:1) With no clear destination, Abraham leaves the comforts and security of home, and severs all relationships with the past. Near Shechem in the land of Canaan, God appears to him again and announces that his offspring will be given this land. Abraham then "built an altar there to God who had appeared to him."

In his erection of the altar, Abraham is testifying to his realization that the

of Israel... and merited an independent nation on the basis of two acquisitions." The first was the conquest and settlement of the land (*hazakata*) as the Torah established: "Arise and walk the land in its length and breadth because I have given it to you and your seed." (Gen. 13:7)

But it's the bloody battles and fallen soldiers which merit eternal acquisition. Rabbi Soloveitchik continues: "It appears that even secular Jews, members of a non-religious Zionist movement, made an acquisition and merited not only the land of Israel but the God of Israel. Even those questioning and secular agnostics who officially deny God and tries to explain the historical drama of the Jews in secular terms, nevertheless made an acquisition of the God of Israel, for he too built an 'altar' on the mountains of Israel, and he too offered sacrifices on that altar."

Rabbi Soloveitchik is arguing that the Eternal One can be acquired only through an altar, and that the sacrifice of "every Jew is always accepted willingly even though the one who sacrifices is not doing it for the sake of Heaven..." A person who risks his life for Israel may say he does not believe in God, but it is a principle of Torah, according to Rabbi Soloveitchik, that God believes in him.

Obviously, it's the right of the non-religious Jew to believe whatever he wants, but for the religious, a person who makes God more manifest through his sacrifices receives His blessing. He has acquired God, and has enabled us and the world to acquire God as well!

Thus it follows that people who sacrifice everything for Torah must realize those who sacrifice everything for the land are on the same side as themselves - and are their partners in fulfilling the covenant made to Abraham, and the dream of a world of peace and freedom.

Help the elderly combat the bad weather ahead

FUNDS
BEVERLEE BLACK

AS we've mentioned many, many times, there are thousands of elderly people living on limited budgets which do not stretch far enough for bedding, heaters and warm clothing. What with several months of bad weather in store, the Forsake Me Not Fund will need lots more money to meet the demands.

We would like to share with you the following letter from a mother of five children, which underlines the importance of your donations: "It was with great pleasure that we received your gift of toys and activities. Besides a few general toys or activity toys, each child found a toy most suited to them. It has brought many hours, so far, of occupied time and organized play. This is so very helpful to them and to me. May you all be blessed with good health and the ability to continue such kindness."

Need we say more?

Funds are trickling in. Requests are pouring in. And unless donations to the Welcome Home Fund don't pick up considerably, we will be very limited in how many students we can assist.

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\$25 In memory of our parents - Gerald and Hilda Jaffe, Verona, NJ. Phillip Rosenberg, Las Vegas. Laurence Leonard, King of Prussia, PA. Joyce Saffir, Glencoe, IL. E. W. and Helen Woodham, Newport, AR.

\$18 On the occasion of the yahrzeit of my father, Max - Irving Somershome, Charleston. Myron Friedman, North Brighton, ME. In memory of our family friend, Mania Minkendorf - Molly and Jack Zwanziger, Rochester. Roslyn Hopin, NYC. In memory of my parents, George and Mona Popkin - Marcia Sandler, Teaneck. Ralph and Blanche Keno, Chicago. In memory of my beloved mother, Florence - Brian Freund, Austin.
\$15 Mr. and Mrs. Albert Tavets, Beachwood, OH. Sima Grossman, Brooklyn.
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Can\$18 In memory of my parents, Daniel and Esther - Gordon Aizer, Cote St. Luc.

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\$36 In honor of the special birthday of Rabbi Norman Goldberg of Chicago - Anon. In honor of our parents, Henia and

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\$15 Terry Levy, West Balm Beach, FL. Mrs. Albert Tavets, Beachwood, OH.
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\$5 Bess Marder, Lynn, MA.
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£100 In memory of my mother, Fanny Wolfson - Renee Lauffer, London.

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November 21 - November 23

Further information: 91074 10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Varda.

FEATURES

Hebron tea party turns ugly

THOSE who supported the outrageous scenes of incitement which preceded the assassination of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin seem determined to commemorate the shameful anniversary with more of the same. Boiling tea thrown in the face of Labor MK Yael Dayan by a convicted Jewish terrorist in Hebron symbolized the continuing in-your-face extremism of some right-wing nationalists.

The incident was followed by a flood of threats that underscored the extent of the lack of repentance; the ugly head has not been hung in shame, merely hiding and biding its time before being raised again. As Dayan herself said: "They have learned nothing from the murder of Rabin. Nothing."

Almost as disgraceful as the attack itself was chorus of abuse and curses showered on Dayan by those surrounding her at the time. The attacker was escorted to the police station, only to dematerialize mysteriously instead of being taken into custody. His identity is known - Yisrael Lederman, 60, who once served three years of a 20-year sentence for murdering an Arab - as is his residence - Jerusalem's Bayit Vagan quarter. Yet two days later he was still merely "on the wanted list."

Less seriously, the previous evening another settler, a rabbi from Kiryat Arba, verbally attacked another woman, former minister Shulamit Aloni, with a stream of abuse and curses on *Popolitika*. He too "escaped" with little or no reaction from the rest of the (male) participants on the talk show. Panelist Tommy Lapid made a valiant effort to brand the ignoramus "nothing but a hoodlum," but his voice was drowned out in the general baying and snarling that

passes for debate on the program. It is hardly a coincidence, Labor MKs said later, that both attackers are religious, that the victims of the physical and verbal violence are women, and that no action had been taken yet against either of the "gentlemen."

As Dayan continued to receive enough threats on her life after the incident to render protection necessary, it was revealed she was not alone in being so dubiously honored. Opposition MKs have received dozens of letters reeking of curses and threats of murder.

SANS ELEGANCE
Even right-wing Knesset members were appalled by the rudeness and vulgarity of three of their colleagues who refused to shake the hand of Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat when they met him on an official visit to a PA office in Bethlehem. The three said afterwards that they had not known Arafat would be there, but Labor MK Salah Tarif, who initiated the visit, said he had informed them of this beforehand. In any case, many tact should have been displayed as the visit was a political matter in the midst of extremely touchy negotiations between the government and the PA.

It took the ever-polite Dr. Ahmed Tibi to remind the churlish MKs of their Ps and Qs on Israel Radio. After all, he said, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu had already shaken Arafat's hand several times, "and warily too." Arafat himself was less tactful. He ordered his security men to escort the honorable MKs out of the room immediately.

"It's not just a political matter," Labor MK Uzi Baram said, "but one of simple meanness and base-ness. It's worse than malice and it borders on stupidity, especially

THE WEEK THAT WAS
MICHAEL YUDELMAN



Yael Dayan: 'They have learned nothing from the murder of Rabin.' (Isaac Harari)

since we are in the middle of delicate political negotiations with the Palestinian Authority."

Then came the embarrassing spectacle of the unseemly jostling of French President Jacques Chirac - hemmed-in to the point of explosive exasperation - by security guards in the narrow streets of Jerusalem's Old City. Red-faced with anger, Chirac labeled the rough pushing away of a journalist trying to ask him a question "provocation" after he had already been prevented from shaking the hands of local Palestinians and threatened to "get on my plane and fly back to France right now."

Perhaps the pushing, shoving, shooting and rudeness that Israelis shrug off as part of the daily routine may be no longer lamely excused as

gruff sabra forthrightness. As more Israelis than ever travel abroad, they may see it for what it is, as do Westerners and their leaders: unacceptable boorishness sans elegance.

NOT BIBI-FRIENDLY
MK Ephraim Sneh, who announced his candidacy for Labor's leadership this week, coined a new phrase for the Israeli political lexicon. At his first and quite impressive gathering of supporters in Ramat Efal, Sneh borrowed a usage from the computer world and declared himself "not Bibi compatible."

Brig-Gen. (res.) Sneh brings a respectable military and medical record to his ticket. He was a regiment doctor in the paratroopers, commanded elite units and served as head of the civil administration in the West Bank. Since his release from the army, he has been active in Labor. He spearheaded party primaries and was among the leaders of Rabin's campaign staff in the 1992 primaries for prime minister.

Sneh is a personable soft-spoken man who is well liked on all sides of the reasonable political spectrum. He may well have to change this gentle style as he grids for the party leadership race. There are signs he is doing so already.

"After the election defeat, some people have the feeling we could only defeat Bibi with someone similar to him in style and character. I hereby declare: I am not like Bibi. I am completely different from Bibi, both in my political ways and in everything else. Whoever wants a Bibi-compatible should not vote for me," he announced.

Sneh's tack was seen in the party as being aimed not only at Netanyahu. There was a clear sideways jab at MK Ehud Barak, his main rival for the leadership so far.

"I hear more and more that people are sick and tired of the Bibi model. It is a model of arrogance and pride, of patronizing single rule and based on sacrificing all for the leader," Sneh explained.

Sneh charged that every political move on the peace process made by Netanyahu so far has been only as a result of pressure.

"Even the present negotiations with the Palestinians came only after unnecessary bloodshed, the loss of 15 Israeli soldiers and dozens of Palestinians, and after arm-twisting by the United States, whose president had to call the Washington summit."

"Everything has changed, and for the worst," Sneh said. "We are commemorating Rabin's death this week, and the feeling remains that the murder achieved its goal. Israel is the only democracy in the world where an assassin's side could be strengthened by such a murder. The hope of peace we had built is fading away. The roads we forged eastwards [to the Arab world] are a wilderness, the Arab world is uniting against us. In a short time Netanyahu dragged us into a series of security and foreign-policy disasters and there is fear that he might lead us to an ignition of war in the not-distant future."

HOME RUN
Barak undoubtedly liked it less. Until now he has been the only contender as other "potentials" like MKs Haim Ramon and Uzi Baram continue sitting on the fence, studying how the wind blows. Sneh undoubtedly has set himself up for a run-in with a formidable opponent in Barak, still considered the only real "killer candidate" in the party and, at this point, still the one most likely to sweep to victory.

Channel 1 also reported this week that Barak has found himself a formidable sponsor: international businessman Jean Friedman, Rabin's former close friend and confidant. If Bibi has Ron Lander, then Barak has Friedman, Barak's people remark smugly.

Friedman, who helped organize the fateful peace rally last November 4, then joined Peres's election campaign. The alarm bells he rang to say Peres was falling behind in the polls fell on deaf ears, as did the same warning cries from Barak. Peres opted for Ramon's roster polls and laid-back campaign, and the result is history.

Barak isn't admitting anything, but Channel 1 said it was Friedman, who has just returned to his Savoyan residence from a trip abroad, who decided to field Barak and told his friends: "Until Barak is fixed up, I'm not going to budge from here."



Raya Jaglom (center) displays her new insignia of Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur. She is flanked by French Ambassador Jean Noel de Bouillane de Lacoste and his wife. (Shlomo Wolkowicz)

PM takes the cake

GRAPEVINE
GREER FAY CASHMAN

HIS 47TH birthday began and ended on a sweet note for Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, who discovered at 8:30 a.m. on Monday that an emergency meeting called in his office with senior Mossad officials was in fact a ploy to ensure that he would be on hand to receive a birthday cake and greetings from his immediate family and close associates. Decorum was briefly cast aside as Netanyahu's young sons Yair and Avner happily scampered around and across the cabinet table. Later in the day, Netanyahu received a much-appreciated birthday present when a no-confidence motion in his government was defeated in the Knesset. But it didn't end there. At the Beit Hanassi state dinner for French President Jacques Chirac yet another birthday cake baked by Chef Shalom Kadosh of the Jerusalem Sheraton Plaza was produced with a flourish at the end of the meal. Netanyahu graciously handed the first slice to his wife, who celebrates her birthday next month.



Chef Shalom Kadosh had the honor of providing the cake for Netanyahu's 47th birthday.

THE PLAZA'S long tradition of making birthday cakes for the prime minister began nearly two decades ago with a Saturday birthday celebration for then-prime minister Menachem Begin. In order not to desecrate the Sabbath by delivering the cake by car, a ceremonial procession of chefs carried it from the hotel to the prime minister's nearby official residence.

SOME PEOPLE were wondering why Labor opposition leader Shimon Peres was absent from the state dinner for Chirac. No, he hadn't been accidentally overlooked. Nor was he instituting a private boycott. He was on his way home from South Africa, where he had met with President Nelson Mandela.

SHE IS proud of all that she had done for Israel, said Raya Jaglom, honorary president of World WIZO, but most of all, she is proud that her grandsons serve in the IDF. Jaglom was speaking at a luncheon at the Tel Aviv Hilton attended by French Ambassador Jean Noel de Bouillane de Lacoste, who earlier in the day had conferred on her the insignia of Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur in recognition of her services to humanity. The ambassador was particularly impressed with Jaglom's efforts on behalf of Soviet Jewry, but also referred to her remarkable talent for fundraising and told her that there is no bigger schnorrer than she. Jaglom was as happy with her schnorrer status as with her new membership in the Knights of the Legion of Honor. Tel Aviv mayor Roni Milo dubbed her "one of the best examples of volunteerism."

Aura Herzog, head of the Council for a Beautiful Israel, who found herself seated next to former prime minister Yitzhak Shamir, commented that it had been a long time since they had been dinner partners. During her husband's term as president she and Shamir had been constant partners at state luncheons and dinners. Among the other guests were former foreign minister Moshe Arens, MK Naomi Blumenthal, philanthropist Lola Beer Ebner and actress Aviva Marks.

GRACING THE Hanan Aynor Foundation's scholarship awards ceremony, in which 20 scholarships were presented to PhD, MA and BA students who are members of the Ethiopian community, was Dedjazmatch Zewde Gabre-Selassie, the step-grandson of emperor Haile Selassie. His country's former ambassador to the United Nations and later justice minister, Gabre-Selassie recalled that he had spent "the best four" of his formative years in Jerusalem, where he had come with the emperor in 1936. He was heartbroken he said, when he came a second time in 1956 and saw the city he loved divided. Notwithstanding the break in diplomatic relations between

Israel and Ethiopia in 1973 when then-ambassador Hanan Aynor had been expelled, Gabre-Selassie had retained a friendship with Aynor until his death three years ago.

In its first year of operation in 1994, the foundation awarded four scholarships, then nine in 1995 and 20 this year.

The number will increase next year as more Ethiopian immigrants reach out for a higher education. According to Labor MK Adisu Massala, some 1,000 Ethiopian students are currently enrolled in the country's institutes of higher education. David Yasu, who is in charge of the Ethiopian desk at the Absorption Ministry, hailed the Aynor initiative, "because we don't have any money for scholarships at the ministry."

"ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT is the key our success," said Zipporah Kitony, Kenyan woman's rights activist, who chairs the three-million-strong Mandaleo Ya Wanawake organization. A delegate to the Foreign Ministry's Mashav-sponsored International Symposium on Economic Development, Entrepreneurship and Gender, Kitony, a Christian, is on her first visit to Israel. "My dream is fulfilled because I am in the Holy Land," she said.

Another first timer, Claudia Quinones, chairperson of the Fudem Fund for the Development of the El Salvador Woman, is staying on for a week beyond the conference "so that I can get the feel of the country." Mechitild Beucke-Galm, a Frankfurt-based specialist in organization development who was sent here by symposium cosponsor Soroptmist International, was here 18 years ago as a volunteer on Kibbutz Geva. She said that Israel is in a much better position than Germany when it comes to female empowerment. Another delegate with friends here is Ekinet Mapondera of Zimbabwe, who is a '69 graduate of Yeshiva University's School of Social Work. Mapondera, who fought for 20 years to establish a women's bank in Zimbabwe, now chairs the Zimbabwe Women's Finance Trust.

FRIENDS FROM the right as well as from the left attended the wedding at the Dan Accadia Hotel Herzliya last Friday of Shimon and Dana Sheves, who were united in matrimony by Astkenazi Chief Rabbi Yisrael Meir Lau. Sheves, the former director-general of the Prime Minister's Office, left to prepare the groundwork for what was to have been Yitzhak Rabin's 1996 election campaign.

The Rabin family turned up for the event in full force along with Pina and Haim Ramon, Uzi Baram, Judy and Silvan Shalom, Elishava and Roni Milo, Liora and Eli Landau, Amnon and Tali Lipkin-Shahak and close to 150 other friends, including most of the Rabin cabinet. The celebration moved from Herzliya to Tel Aviv Port, where the newlyweds were feted with a huge surprise party at the Amazones nightclub.

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CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- When sick, poor signs for likely course of disease (9)
- Preacher takes a job with the French (7)
- Skilled worker making a little money with spare furniture (7)
- Tend not to lie flat (7)
- Take back espressos for stirring (9)
- Only some can breathe there—all so rarefied (8)
- Crazy sort of arithmetic (6)
- Worship one and the same girl (7)
- Hard worker, an old war-horse (6)
- Admitting nothing's been paid back? (8)

DOWN

- Spell "mitigate" (7)
- Wellington's footwear? (7)
- Do lovers perhaps get unfairly promoted? (8)
- It's painful to watch him having fun (6)
- Perform cunningly in fight—class always shows (3,6)

7 Footballer who throws a punch? (7)

8 Revolting experience with disobedient animal (9)

13 These pins are well-balanced on board (3-4)

15 Brother's place is more nasty after renovation (9)

16 Broadcast by important person likely to keep you up (9)

18 Cheap accommodation always found during leg of journey (8)

19 'e's running—to Gretna? (7)

21 Altogether superior to a couple of learners? (7)

22 Sinatra turned out a man of skill (7)

24 Camper perhaps not in gear (6)

SOLUTIONS

DEPICTED ABOVE

YESTERDAY'S QUICK SOLUTION

ACROSS: 7 Clams, 8 Skated, 10 Topiary, 11 Plane, 12 Easy, 13 Under, 17 Sins, 18 Lads, 23 Clams, 23 Spectra, 24 Little, 25 Peasants.

DOWN: 1 Scatter, 2 Compose, 3 Miral, 4 Skipper, 5 Stani, 6 Adieu, 9 Hypnotism, 14 Startle, 15 Caution, 16 Release, 19 Scale, 20 Jetty, 21 Decay.

QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- Alter (6)
- Unruffled (6)
- Disgusting, offensive (7)
- Sliver of fried potato (5)
- Presently (4)
- Articles of belief (6)
- Mixed drink (5)
- Regulation (4)
- Hollywood award (5)
- Chic (7)
- Mean (6)
- Diversion (6)

DOWN

- Student (7)
- Grand house (7)
- Concur (5)
- Trained (7)
- Characteristic (5)
- Musical speed (5)
- Diminished in value (5)
- Of the moment (7)
- Museum caretaker (7)
- Enterprise (7)
- Subject (5)
- Caledonians (5)
- Cut (5)

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Friday, October 25, 1996

Safra to buy UMB Trust for \$30m.

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

SAFRA National Bank of New York, owned by Joseph and Moise Safra, has signed an agreement to purchase United Mizrahi Bank and Trust Company for about \$30 million.

Completion of the sale marks the first sale of an Israeli bank's overseas operations as part of the government's privatization plans.

The agreement was signed with United Mizrahi Bank late Wednesday night.

The agreement also includes the transfer of UMB's interests in Latin America.

The Safra family has been competing for the bank against the Safdie banking family, the owners of Commercial Bank of New York, which had signed a letter of intent to acquire UMB Trust for \$22m. about nine months ago.

The letter of intent was cancelled several months ago on the grounds that it was reached behind the bank's two trustees backs.

"The Safras knew they had to make a higher bid than \$22m. They estimated Safdie would raise their bids to at least \$25m. To make sure they would get it they offered \$30m.," one banker close to Safra said.

The acquisition will not only add to Safra Bank's assets but also is expected to save in operation costs. The recent trend in the US is to merge banks in order to reduce expenses.

"UMB New York is an ideal combination with us in that they have developed both an international private banking business and a domestic US middle market business, two lines of business that are of great interest to us and perfectly consistent with our strategy of careful growth," Safra National President Carlos Albert Viera said.

The sale is in accordance with a voting trust agreement signed in January 1995 in connection with the privatization of UMB. The agreement remains subject to regulatory approval, which is expected to be obtained in three to six months.

The proceeds of the sale will go to UMB Overseas Holding Company, which is situated in Holland and holds all of UMB Trust's shares. UMB Overseas Holding is a wholly owned subsidiary of Mizrahi Bank, in which the government has a 72% holding.

At the end of September 1996 UMB New York had total stockholders' equity of \$21.5m. and total deposits of \$260m. On the same date, Safra National had total stockholders' equity of \$75m. and total deposits of \$1.2 billion.

The Safras are also the owners of Banco Safra, an \$8.6b. asset Brazilian bank and have a controlling interest in the \$10b. asset First International Bank of Israel.

"The Safra family's purchase of UMB Trust is a separate transaction and has no connection with

First International Bank," said David Kimche, UMB NY's chairman of the board and the person handling the sale on behalf of Mizrahi.

According to the agreement, Mizrahi Bank will be able to continue servicing its private banking customers through the Bank of Israel and its remaining affiliates abroad.

At the start of the year, Commercial Bank signed a letter of intent with Mizrahi's owners, the Ofer-Wertheim groups, to acquire UMB Trust for \$22m. The agreement surprised many in the banking sector, including UMB Managing Director Victor Medina, who only one week earlier had gone on a road-show telling people that he had big plans for Latin America.

About two months ago, UMB Trust's two trustees - Prof. Eliezer Sheffer and consultant William Issac - vetoed the sale on the grounds that it was reached behind their backs.

Shortly afterwards, they instructed Mizrahi to offer the subsidiary to other potential buyers. Medina, who at the time threatened to resign from the bank, agreed to remain on condition that the owners let him take over the sale process.

UMB is the only of the four largest banking groups in Israel to have been privatized. The controlling interest in the bank are held by the Ofer Wertheim groups. It has total assets of \$1.4b. and stockholders' equity of \$530m.

French dairy to buy 20% of Strauss' Dairies

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

THE French-based dairy giant Danone is expected to sign an agreement to purchase about 20 percent of Strauss' Dairies in Nabariya in one to three months time, Strauss chairman of the board and CEO Michael Strauss said yesterday.

Danone representatives met with Strauss heads in Israel Wednesday in order to formulate the deal. Strauss said there are still a number of technical issues that the companies' lawyers and accountants have to finalize before the agreement is signed.

It is estimated that the shares will be sold for \$50 million to \$60m., based on a company valuation of \$250 - \$300m., but Strauss refused to comment on the sum.

Strauss is Israel's largest privately owned food manufacturer. The partnership with Danone is expected to help Strauss develop into new fields, including the baby food field.

Strauss already uses the Danone brand name on some of its yogurt products.

Sources in the food sector speculate that Danone's entry into Strauss will be followed by the French dairy's entry into Elite Industries, in which Strauss is a partner.

BITS & BYTES

JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

Algorithmic Research to provide technology to Japan: Algorithmic Research's technology has been selected by the Japanese ministries of industry and trade and communications. The infrastructure technology will help the Japanese government to establish a system that will allow people to buy and sell goods securely via the Internet.

Alirroo signs strategic agreement with Taiwanese firm: Alirroo, a maker of encryption software, has signed a strategic deal with the Taiwanese company CDPC. During the first stage of the deal, which is worth close to \$100,000, Alirroo will provide CDPC with software and CDPC will translate Alirroo's products into Chinese and market them in Taiwan.

Elop to present latest HUD in Seoul: Elop Electro-optics Industries is presenting its latest Head-Up Display at the International Airshow currently under way in Seoul, South Korea. Elop's HUD system, which is based on conventional optics, is used in fighter aircraft.

Magic Software chosen by Ciba: Ciba Grimsby, part of Ciba, the UK-based leading world-wide biological and chemical group, has chosen the Magic Software Enterprises' (Nasdaq: MGICF) MAGIC 7 client-server environment to develop new applications, including cost analysis, health appointments, and inventory management. The contract totals \$210,000.

Myriad completes \$4m. private placement: Myriad Ultrasound Systems, Ltd. has announced the completion of a \$4m. private placement offering in the US. NY-based Sunrise Securities was the agent for the offering. Myriad develops, manufactures, and sells ultrasound systems for the diagnosis of bone disorders.

Tecnomatix receives \$2m. order from Mazda: Tecnomatix Technologies Ltd. (Nasdaq: TCMOF) recently announced that its Japanese joint venture company has received a \$2m. order from Mazda Motor Corporation for its computer-aided production engineering (CAPE) software products. The order represents the company's largest-ever deal with Japan.

RAD receives ISO certification: The International Certification Network (EQNet) has awarded RAD Data Communications an ISO 9001 certification for its hardware and software, the world's highest quality rating for manufacturing and research and development.

RADA sells \$1.6m. of its CATS technology to New Reef Holdings: RADA Electronic Industries (Nasdaq: RADIF) has announced that it will supply \$1.6m. worth of its CATS technology to New Reef Holdings Ltd., a Hong Kong-based joint venture between British Virgin Island and Horsham Enterprises Ltd.

Silicon Graphics reaffirms commitment to work with local companies: During his recent visit to Israel, Silicon Graphics (NYSE: SGI) president Gary Lauer reaffirmed his company's commitment to local research and development initiatives. Silicon Graphics (Israel) does joint R&D projects with Elscint and in the summer announced that it had joined the Ministry of Industry and Trade's Magnet program, a \$50m., five-year program that focuses on drug design.

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*Provided the investment has been held until the maturity date.

BANK LEUMI LE-ISRAEL B.M.

Following the notices published by Bank Leumi le-Israel B.M. ("Bank Leumi") on October 1, 1996 and October 7, 1996, concerning the sale of a Block of Shares in Africa Israel Investments Ltd. ("Africa"), a public company, whose shares are traded on The Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, Bank Leumi wishes to inform the public as follows:

Bank Leumi has received many requests from groups of potential purchasers to extend the date of submission of Offers to purchase the Block of Shares that was fixed as October 28, 1996, without extending the period of due diligence examination set out in the Procedure Letter.

Bank Leumi has decided to extend the final date for submitting the Offers to November 5, 1996, at 13:00 Tel Aviv time (instead of October 28, 1996, which is the date fixed in the notice published by Bank Leumi on October 7, 1996), mainly to enable potential purchasers to examine whether they can obtain the necessary approvals from the authorities in Israel and abroad.

However, nothing in the aforesaid shall extend the period of due diligence examination determined in the Procedure Letter, i.e. the said period shall end in any event on November 21, 1996, and there shall be no extensions (due to the provisions of the Banking Law). Interested parties wishing to submit Offers are encouraged to use their best endeavours to submit Offers prior to the aforesaid final date, so as to enable them, should their Offer be deemed suitable, to begin the due diligence examination immediately.

In addition, Bank Leumi has decided, following inquiries made by potential purchasers regarding the Second Option (as defined in the Procedure Letter), to enable the offerors to act as follows:

The offerors may submit Offers to purchase the Block of Shares in Africa with the Second Option or without the Second Option, at their discretion, and in such event the purchase agreement - Appendix E-1 to the Procedure Letter - shall be revised.

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ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Pitach (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.9.96)

| Currency (deposit for) | 3 MONTHS | 6 MONTHS | 12 MONTHS |
|--------------------------|----------|----------|-----------|
| U.S. dollar (\$250,000) | 4.750 | 5.000 | 5.375 |
| French franc (€100,000) | 3.575 | 4.000 | 4.250 |
| German mark (DM 200,000) | 1.825 | 1.825 | 2.125 |
| Swiss franc (SF 200,000) | 0.825 | 0.750 | 1.000 |
| Yen (10 million yen) | | | |

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (24.10.96)

| Currency basket | CHECKS AND TRANSFERS | | BANKNOTES | | Rep. Rate** |
|-------------------------|----------------------|--------|-----------|------|-------------|
| | Buy | Sell | Buy | Sell | |
| U.S. dollar | 3.2258 | 3.2881 | 3.18 | 3.34 | 3.2800 |
| German mark | 2.1273 | 2.1617 | 2.08 | 2.20 | 2.1544 |
| French franc | 5.1580 | 5.2423 | 5.07 | 5.32 | 5.2206 |
| Japanese yen (100) | 2.8880 | 2.8153 | 2.81 | 2.96 | 2.9073 |
| Dutch florin | 1.8960 | 1.8288 | 1.88 | 1.98 | 1.9207 |
| Swiss franc | 2.5728 | 2.6174 | 2.63 | 2.66 | 2.6093 |
| Scandinavian krona | 0.4915 | 0.4955 | 0.48 | 0.51 | 0.4894 |
| Norwegian krona | 0.5318 | 0.5387 | 0.48 | 0.52 | 0.5081 |
| Danish krona | 0.5547 | 0.5637 | 0.54 | 0.58 | 0.5620 |
| Finnish mark | 0.7079 | 0.7194 | 0.69 | 0.73 | 0.7175 |
| Canadian dollar | 2.4072 | 2.4461 | 2.38 | 2.48 | 2.4407 |
| Australian dollar | 2.5830 | 2.6044 | 2.51 | 2.55 | 2.5693 |
| S. African rand | 0.7053 | 0.7167 | 0.63 | 0.72 | 0.7182 |
| Belgian franc (10) | 1.0325 | 1.0492 | 1.01 | 1.07 | 1.0480 |
| Austrian schilling (10) | 3.5228 | 3.0714 | 2.97 | 3.12 | 3.0220 |
| Italian lire (1,000) | 2.1136 | 2.1477 | 2.07 | 2.18 | 2.1451 |
| Jordanian dinar | 4.6000 | 4.8100 | 4.50 | 4.81 | 4.8330 |
| Egyptian pound | 0.9200 | 1.0000 | 0.82 | 1.00 | 1.0088 |
| ECU | 4.0780 | 4.1438 | | | 4.1303 |
| Irish punt | 5.213 | 5.2972 | 6.12 | 5.38 | 5.2742 |
| Spanish peseta (100) | 2.5245 | 2.5653 | 2.48 | 2.61 | 2.5570 |

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel.
SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC TENDER - No. 121/96

Marking and Scraping of Roads Throughout Jerusalem

- The Jerusalem Municipality hereby invites proposals from contractors for implementing the above project.
- Details and material, including conditions of tender and proposed contract, can be obtained from Mr. Ehud Giat of the Department for Road Safety at the Maintenance Center, Giv' at Stamb B, 3rd floor, Room 309, beginning Thursday, 24 October 1996, from 08:00 to 12:00. A non-refundable fee of NIS 2,000 will be charged for the tender documents.
- Proposals must include a linked bank guarantee, as specified in the tender conditions, in order to be considered by the tenders committee.
- Proposals should be sent to the Municipality by registered mail, in a sealed envelope with all details of the tender written on it, not later than Tuesday, 3 December 1996, to the Municipal Department of Tenders, 1 Safra Square, Jerusalem; or they can be delivered directly to the above address, 2nd fl., Room 181, on the above-mentioned date (3 December 1996) between 9:00 and 12:00 only.
- The Municipality is under no obligation to accept the lowest bid or any other one.

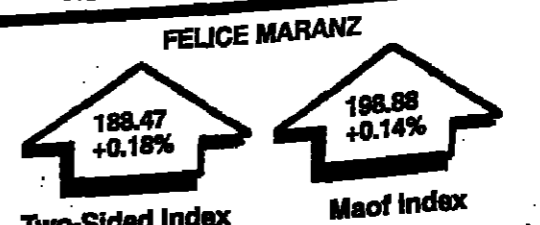
Jacob Efraty
Director General

Information and Public Relations Department

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Market shows little change

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET



STOCKS closed little changed for the second day yesterday and were little changed from the previous Thursday. The Maof Index rose 0.14 percent to 188.88 and the Two-Sided Index rose 0.15% to 188.47.

Eurobourses mixed as Wall St. flounders

LONDON (Reuters) - European bourses, nervous all day over what might happen on Wall Street, ended mixed yesterday as US stocks made an indecisive start and then dived more than half a percent.

German shares extended their losses slightly after the Bundesbank said it had left its key rates unchanged. However, in post-house electronic trading Frankfurt shares recovered slightly and ended just positive.

By the late afternoon some of the mark's firmness in Europe had eroded and its retreat from a session high against the yen also helped underpin the dollar.

The mark's rise against other European currencies like the lira and the Swedish crown had been a central feature of the session, traders said.

Inflation, earnings fears send Dow below 6,000

NEW YORK (AP) - Stocks fell for the fourth day in a row yesterday as investors, fretting about inflation and some weak corporate earnings, sold their holdings.

On Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average dropped 43.98 points to close at 5,992.48, closing below 6,000 for the first time since October 11.

WALL STREET REPORT

Table with columns for various stock indices and their changes, including S&P 500, Dow Jones, and Nikkei.

CURRENCY CROSS-RATES table showing exchange rates for various currencies like Sterling, Yen, and Swiss Franc.

TEL AVIV STOCKS

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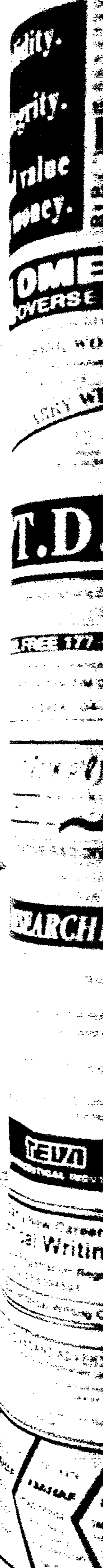
US commodities table showing prices for oil, sugar, and other goods.

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Sabatini retires at 26

NEW YORK (AP) - Gabriela Sabatini, the sixth-biggest money winner in women's tennis history, but ineffective this year, announced her retirement yesterday.

"I have made this decision after a long and well-thought-out analysis, out of which has arisen my strong desire to pursue the development of other activities," Sabatini said during a news conference at Madison Square Garden.

The glamorous, 26-year-old Argentine ended her mostly unfulfilled career in abrupt fashion. She has no plans to play in selected tournaments or on a farewell tour. However, Madison Square Garden president Dave Checketts, declared the opening night of the season-ending Chase Championships of the Corel WTA Tour on November 18 to be "Farewell Gabby Night."

Sabatini won the event in 1988 and 1994, but did not qualify this year.

Sabatini turned pro at age 14, and was hailed as the rival most likely to challenge Steffi Graf for dominance of her sport.

While Graf has been at the top for several years, Sabatini never quite reached the pinnacle. Her highest world ranking was No. 3 in 1989, 1991 and 1992, and she won only one grand slam title - the US Open in 1990. There, she beat Steffi Graf in a stirring final.

Overall, Sabatini won 27 singles titles and 12 doubles titles, and earned \$8,785,849. Only Martina Navratilova, Graf, Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, Chris Evert and Monica Seles earned more on the women's tour.

In addition to her tour earnings, Sabatini made an estimated \$20 million from a perfume bearing her name, modeling clothes in fashion magazines and endorsements.



END OF THE ROAD - Gabriela Sabatini announces her retirement at the Garden yesterday.

Her final tournament ended in a first-round, straight-sets loss to Jennifer Capriati last week at Zurich, Switzerland. It was the second straight event at which Sabatini was ousted in the first round, and dropped her world ranking to 31 after a decade in the top 10.

Motivation problems along with a stomach-muscle injury plagued Sabatini throughout this year, and resulted in her retirement at a relatively young age.

Red Wings end power play drought

DETROIT (Reuter) - The Detroit Red Wings finally scored a power play goal. In fact, they scored two in a 4-1 win over the Dallas Stars on Wednesday.

The Red Wings entered the game as the only team in the NHL without a power play goal, going 0-for-33 with a man advantage over their first eight games.

But Brendan Shanahan, acquired from Hartford in a four-player deal earlier this season, ended the drought by scoring Detroit's first two power play goals of the season.

Chris Osgood faced 24 shots, making 23 saves, and Greg Johnson added a goal and an assist for Detroit, which has not lost at home to Dallas in three years.

Shanahan opened the scoring at 6:58 of the first period when he put a one-timer past goaltender Arturs Irbe from the lower left faceoff circle to snap the embarrassing streak.

"Once you get the first one out of the way, it seems a lot easier," Shanahan said. "The last couple of games, we've been pressing. We've tried to be too perfect on the power play."

Kris Draper doubled the lead at 12:14 of the second period with a backhand through Irbe's pads.

Johnson made it 3-0 90 seconds into the third off a pass from Steve Yzerman, who had two assists, before Jamie Langenbrunner ended Osgood's shutout bid with the lone Dallas goal just 45 seconds later.

Shanahan answered with another power play tally, his fifth goal of the season, four minutes later to cap the scoring.

Panthers 5, Senators 2. Ed Jovanovski, Martin Straka, and Rob Niedermayer each scored power play goals as host Florida remained the league's only unbeaten team.

Florida scored on three of five chances with the man advantage, matching a team record for power play goals.

The defensive-minded Panthers raised their record to 5-0-3, having allowed more than two goals just once in their eight games.

Per Gustafsson and Robert Svehla scored the other Panthers goals, while Mark Fitzpatrick stopped 36 of 38 shots as Florida improved to 11-1-1 all-time against the Senators.

Alexi Yashin and Daniel Alfredsson scored for Ottawa, both power play tallies.

Capitals 3, Rangers 2. Defenseman Ken Klee scored a breakaway goal with 6:10 left in the third period and Jim Carey made 23 saves as visiting Washington snapped a three-game losing streak.

With the score 2-2, the Rangers appeared to take the lead on Niklas Sundstrom's goal with 7:23 left. But referee Don Koharski ruled that New York rookie Daniel Gougeau's skate was in the crease and nullified the goal.

"It was frustrating that the goal didn't count," New York's Wayne Gretzky said. "The guy had a half a toe in the crease and wasn't even involved in the play."

Just 83 seconds later, Klee stole the puck from Brian Leetch at center ice, broke into the New York zone and lifted a backhand over Glenn Healey for the game winner.

Avalanche 4, Canucks 1. Peter Forsberg scored a short-handed goal 8:14 into the third period to snap a tie and Joe Sakic had three assists.

With visiting Colorado's Adam Foote serving an interference penalty, Forsberg carried the puck over the blue line, skated around the Vancouver net and slid the puck in with Canucks goaltender Kirk McLean scrambling.

The goal put the Avalanche ahead 2-1 and began a string of three unanswerable third-period goals for the defending Stanley Cup champions. Mike Keane and Rene Corbet sealed the win.

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| New Jersey | 2 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 13/18 |
| N.Y. Islanders | 2 | 5 | 0 | 4 | 16/20 |
| Washington | 2 | 5 | 0 | 4 | 19/24 |
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| Dallas | 7 | 2 | 0 | 14 | 27/21 |
| Chicago | 5 | 3 | 0 | 10 | 19/15 |
| St. Louis | 5 | 4 | 0 | 10 | 25/20 |
| Detroit | 5 | 4 | 0 | 10 | 23/14 |
| Phoenix | 3 | 4 | 1 | 7 | 19/18 |
| Toronto | 2 | 5 | 0 | 4 | 16/28 |
| Pacific Division | | | | | |
| Colorado | 5 | 4 | 1 | 11 | 39/26 |
| Calgary | 5 | 4 | 0 | 10 | 25/20 |
| Edmonton | 5 | 4 | 0 | 8 | 26/30 |
| San Jose | 4 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 26/33 |
| Vancouver | 3 | 5 | 0 | 6 | 22/27 |
| Anaheim | 1 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 22/36 |

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS: Washington 3, N.Y. Rangers 2. Florida 5, Ottawa 2. Detroit 4, Dallas 1. Colorado 4, Vancouver 1.

Sampras, Agassi call for Davis Cup changes

STUTTGART, Germany (Reuter) - Pete Sampras and Andre Agassi on Wednesday called for changes to the timing of the Davis Cup to stop the prestigious team event losing value on the crowded tennis calendar.

World number one Sampras said the annual event, which has

been contested for most of the century, was being "degraded" because many top players skipped ties because they did not fit into their playing schedules - including himself.

"I have always thought it should be more like the Ryder Cup (in golf) which is played

every two years," Sampras said at the Stuttgart Open. "There is too much tennis. The Davis Cup can get lost in the shuffle."

Agassi said the competition should be held every two years at the most.

"I have always said this. It is too difficult. You need a week to prepare and a week to come down afterwards," he said. "I have played a lot of years and it is difficult to find the energy and time."

Neither Sampras nor Agassi played a role in US's ties this year. As reigning champions, the Americans failed to make it to the semifinals after crashing out to the Czech Republic.

Sampras, the three-times Wimbledon champion, said it was not certain that he would play in next year's event.

"I will just have to look at next year ... if I can fit it into my

schedule then I'll play. If I can't, I won't," Sampras said.

Two separate organizations currently share the running of world tennis.

Most of the tournaments are organized by the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) while the Davis Cup and the grand slams - Wimbledon and the French, US and Australian Opens - are run by the International Tennis Federation (ITF).

In the last five seasons the ITF has also added the lucrative Grand Slam Cup to the program which takes the tennis season into December.

"The politics of the ITF and ATP are difficult," Sampras said. "The year doesn't end. It just continues."

The knock-out Davis Cup competition is played over three days with four singles matches and a doubles rubber.

The event dates back to 1902 when the US took on the British Isles.

In recent years players have complained more and more that the ties in February, April, September and November/December are hard to fit into their jet-set lives.

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NHL: Attendance way up

NEW YORK (AP) - NHL attendance is surging at a record pace, the league reported yesterday. An average of 16,191 fans attended the first 103 games this season, an increase of nearly 1,000 fans per game over last year's average at the same time.

The teams played to 90.6 percent of capacity through games of Wednesday night, compared with 88.1 percent last year after 103 games.

Last season, the NHL set an all-time attendance record, exceeding 17 million for the first time.

The Montreal Canadiens lead the league with an average of 20,607 at the Molson Center through five home dates. The Chicago Blackhawks set a single-season record last year with a 20,415 average, the first club to average more than 20,000 per game over a season.

The San Jose Sharks, Colorado Avalanche and Mighty Ducks of Anaheim have combined for 11 sellouts in 11 home dates, extending each team's consecutive sell-out string. The Sharks have the longest current sellout streak, 87 games including playoffs.

The Florida Panthers have had three sellouts of 14,703 in as many games at the Miami Arena to open the season, up 30.2% over last year.

The Oilers have attracted an average attendance of 15,765 after four home dates, an increase of nearly 38% over last year.

SPORTS BRIEFS

English League Cup draw
Draw for the fourth round of the English League Cup made on Wednesday: Charlton or Liverpool vs. Stoke City or Arsenal; West Ham vs. Stockport County; Ipswich Town vs. Gillingham or Coventry; Bolton vs. Tottenham; Middlesbrough vs. Newcastle; Wimbledon or Luton vs. Aston Villa; Port Vale or Oxford vs. Southampton or Lincoln; Leicester vs. Manchester United. Reuter

Coventry bosses fined for misconduct
Coventry City manager Ron Atkinson and his assistant Gordon Strachan were fined yesterday for misconduct during an English reserve team match in August.

Former Scotland international Strachan was fined £2,000 plus costs for refusing to leave the pitch after being sent off in the match against Midlands rivals West Bromwich Albion.

Atkinson was fined £750 plus costs for comments made to match referee Tony Green after Strachan was dismissed. Reuter

Morrison signs Japan contract
IBF-infected heavyweight Tommy Morrison signed a contract that will return him to the ring November 3 in Japan, possibly against a boxer from Oklahoma City, the fight's promoter said yesterday.

Morrison, who retired in February after testing positive for the AIDS virus, signed a contract Wednesday to fight on the undercard of the George Foreman-Clawford Grimsley bout in Tokyo, said Foreman's promoter Ron Weathers.

The bout is considered a warmup to a possible Foreman-Morrison fight in early 1997, he said. Morrison outpointed Foreman for the World Boxing Organization title in 1993. AP

US selects preliminary World Cup squad
World Cup veterans Alexi Lalas, Tab Ramos, John Harkes and Eric Wynalda were among 24 players selected yesterday to the preliminary national squad for qualifying games for the 1998 tournament.

US Coach Steve Sampson took 18 players who performed in the first season of Major League Soccer, which ended last week. They include such newcomers to the U.S. team as Eddie Pope, Preki, Greg Vanney and Martin Vazquez.

Preki, who was born in Yugoslavia, has applied for American citizenship and a decision is expected in the next few days. AP

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Moderator: Gad Lior, Jerusalem Bureau Chief, Yediot Aharonot

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Light

avalanche 4. Canucks... Forsberg scored a goal 8:14 into the first...

Israel's youth soccer squad downs Ukraine

ISRAEL'S national youth soccer squad (under-18) came back from behind to beat Ukraine 2-1 in its European Championship qualifying group match played in Ploiesti, Romania yesterday.

ATLANTA (AP) - The Atlanta Braves took one of the biggest gambles in baseball history. The New York Yankees turned it into one of the biggest comebacks in World Series history.

ON CABLE TV Game 4 of the World Series will be shown at 8:45 am (local time) today. Game 5 will be shown at 7:30 pm today and also tomorrow at 7 pm.



GOING, GOING, GONE - Braves' outfielder Andrew Jones chases after the home run ball hit by New York's Jim Leyritz which tied the game in the eighth inning.

Atlanta 8-6 Wednesday night to even the Series at two games each. "Smart thing to do," Braves manager Bobby Cox insisted. "He's the best hitter they've got. He carried them through Texas, he carried them through Baltimore and he's knocked the living hell out of us."

Klesko dropped for an error, allowing another run to score. Australian Graeme Lloyd escaped a jam in the ninth and was the winning pitcher and John Wetteland got two outs for a save.

Yankees burn Atlanta again

down the third-base line that the Braves let roll, but it stayed fair for a single. Darryl Strawberry followed with a single and Mariano Duncan grounded into a force play except for a bobble by defensive replacement Rafael Belliard at shortstop.

Statistical table for the Yankees vs Braves game, showing batting averages, runs, hits, and errors for both teams.

14-year-old youngest ever in Test cricket

PAISALABAD, Pakistan (Reuters) - In a story straight out of a boy's comic, Pakistan's Hasan Raza stepped into Test cricket yesterday at the tender age of 14 years and 227 days to steer his side out of a tricky situation.

League leader Hap. PT may be in for surprise against Mac. Herzliya

HAPOEL Petah Tikva would appear to have an easy task as the guest to stay top of the National League with a match against bottom side Maccabi Herzliya tomorrow.

NATIONAL LEAGUE table showing teams, wins, losses, draws, goals for, goals against, and points.

Graham returns to Highbury

LONDON (AP) - When George Graham walks into Highbury stadium tomorrow, he will find himself in the unusual position of using the visitors' dressing room.

eight straight victories, plays at Middlesbrough. If the "Dons triumph, they will equal Manchester United's league record for consecutive wins.

Advertisement for Eurobet Sports, featuring the NBA 1996/97 season and Chicago Bulls. Includes contact information for Israeli freephone and Sky Sports Text.

Advertisement for NFL fines, reporting that 17 players were fined a total of \$73,000. Includes details about the fines and the players involved.

Court rules: Ben-Yair can again ask Knesset to lift Pinhasi's immunity

ATTORNEY-GENERAL Michael Ben-Yair may ask the Knesset to lift Shas MK Raphael Pinhasi's immunity so that he can stand trial, the High Court of Justice ruled yesterday. Ben-Yair renewed the request following the ruling.

The Knesset had initially agreed to lift Pinhasi's immunity in March 1993, but reversed itself that July, during a re-vote ordered by the High Court. After the new Knesset was elected, Ben-Yair decided to try again, but Pinhasi asked the court to forbid him to do so.

However, Justices Aharon Barak, Theodor Orr, Mishael Cheshin, Yitzhak Zamir and Dalia Dorner ruled that forbidding Ben-Yair to try again would violate the principles of the rule of law and equality before the law.

Pinhasi's attorney, Dan Avi-

Yitzhak, had argued that a new Knesset does not have the right to overturn an immunity decision made by a former Knesset, because the lifting of an MK's immunity is a quasi-judicial procedure. One of the distinguishing features of judicial procedures is the principle of finality - that at some point, the case must be over for good.

But even if the Knesset does have the right to re-examine such a decision in certain cases, Avi-Yitzhak argued, it should only do so if the circumstances have changed significantly - for instance, if new evidence was uncovered. This is not the case with Pinhasi.

The justices, however, noted that the principle of finality was a rela-

tive value, which had to be balanced against the public interest. In this case, they said, Pinhasi's interest in not having the charges against him resurrected was outweighed by the public interest in seeing that MKs are not allowed to evade criminal charges - the principles of the rule of law and equality before the law.

Furthermore, the justices wrote, immunity is a privilege granted not to the individual MK, but rather to the Knesset as a whole, so that it can protect its members from persecution by the government. It is therefore the Knesset as a whole which must decide when this power should be used, they said.

Thus, for instance, the Knesset could decide that Ben-Yair's

renewed request constitutes persecution, and therefore refuse to grant it. However, it cannot be forbidden to consider the request, even if there has been no significant change in the circumstances.

This does not, however, mean that the new Knesset is acting as an appellate court on the previous Knesset's decision, the justices added. Rather, they said, the Knesset is exercising its sovereign power to reconsider its own decisions.

According to the draft indictment, Pinhasi hired yeshiva students - who are not allowed to work, as they receive draft deferments - to work in Shas's campaign in the 1988 elections, and then lied to the tax authorities about it. He also allegedly submitted a false set of books to the state comptroller.

EVELYN GORDON

SLA soldier wounded in Hizbullah mortar attack

DAVID RUDGE

A SOUTH Lebanese Army soldier was wounded in a Hizbullah mortar attack yesterday as the recent upsurge in fighting in the region continued unabated.

The incident happened in the morning, when Hizbullah gunmen opened fire with mortars, machine guns, and RPGs on the SLA post in Tumat Niha, in the Jezzine enclave region north of the security zone.

One of the soldiers manning the post was hit and treated at the scene, and later evacuated to

Marjayoun Hospital in the zone. The attack prompted relatively heavy exchanges, with IDF and SLA gunners blasting Hizbullah targets and infiltration trails. There were no immediate reports of any casualties among the attackers.

Earlier in the morning Hizbullah gunmen opened fire with light weapons at an SLA position in the Hadatha region in the zone's western sector. There were no injuries nor damage in that incident, and SLA gunners returned fire.

Lebanon's Hariri gets third term as premier

BEIRUT (Reuters) - Lebanese President Elias Hrawi yesterday nominated Prime Minister Rafik al-Hariri to a third term of office.

Hrawi nominated the 51-year-old construction billionaire after consulting deputies in the newly elected parliament. Most told him they wanted Hariri reappointed.

Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri announced that Hrawi had

nominated Hariri after emerging from a meeting with them at the presidential palace.

Hariri has held office since October 1992. He stepped down routinely last week in the wake of the elections to allow the new parliament to make its choice of a new prime minister.

Berri said Hariri would start forming a new cabinet tomorrow.

Syria holding off Hizbullah - for now

ANALYSIS DAVID RUDGE

YESTERDAY'S incidents in Southern Lebanon follow a series of attacks in the past two weeks by Hizbullah and, to a lesser extent, its Shi'ite rival Amal, occurring at a rate of two or three a day.

Most of them have concentrated on SLA targets and have included long-range firing at positions and detonating roadside bombs alongside SLA patrols and convoys.

Hizbullah appears to be temporarily avoiding direct attacks on IDF forces in the zone, apparently as a result of Syrian pressure to restrain the organization, at least until after the US presidential elections early next month.

There has been speculation, however, that this is likely to change after the elections and the region will heat up even more, especially if peace talks between Israel and Syria remain deadlocked.

Syria's involvement in the Operation Grapes of Wrath monitoring committee and its apparent commitments to the US have so far prevented Hizbullah from launching

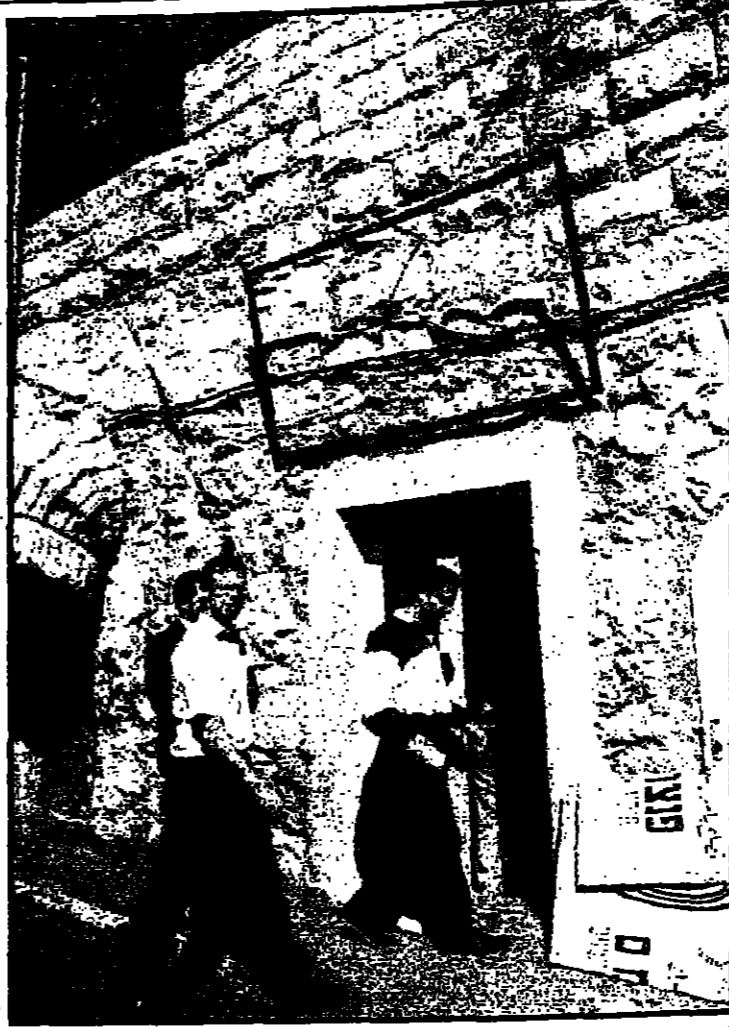
Katynsha rocket attacks on the Galilee in retaliation for incidents in which Lebanese civilians have been wounded.

Rocket attacks were a virtually automatic response by the organization to any civilian casualties resulting from exchanges between Hizbullah and IDF and SLA gunners.

Reports in the Lebanese press, however, have indicated that Hizbullah is becoming increasingly frustrated by the restrictions placed upon it and by what it sees as the ineffectiveness of the monitoring committee.

Syria is likely to become increasingly disillusioned if there are no political developments after the US elections, and this in turn would probably manifest itself in a lifting of the limitations on Hizbullah.

If that happens, according to some Lebanese observers, it would only be a matter of time before an incident occurred which would give Hizbullah an excuse for Katyusha rocket retaliation.



Representatives of Dawn Holdings and members of the Rashad family enter the disputed building yesterday. (Mahfouz Abu Turk)

Ateret Cohanim group temporarily reclaims east Jerusalem building

BILL HUTMAN

REPRESENTATIVES of an Ateret Cohanim-affiliated group yesterday reoccupied the eastern Jerusalem building that police evicted them from last month, after reaching a temporary agreement with the Arab family that claims to own part of the building.

Sources close to the group said the building, across the street from the American Consulate in eastern Jerusalem, soon may be turned into a business that would attract Jewish customers, such as a cafe or restaurant, but declined to specify exactly what.

There were no immediate plans to use the building to house Jewish families, the sources said.

The building is registered as being held by the British Virgin Island-based Dawn Holdings Ltd., which the sources identified as American and European Jewish investors who are affiliated with the Ateret Cohanim settlement group.

On Wednesday, the Jerusalem Magistrate's Court approved a deal worked out between attorneys Eitan Geva, who represents Dawn Holdings, and Mohammed Dahala, representing the Rashad family, which claims to own half the building.

The agreement gives Dawn Holdings temporary possession of the entire building. The family must be consulted if the company wants to make any changes to the building, including opening up a business or using it for housing, and can appeal to the court to stop such a

move.

The agreement is slated to remain in effect until the court decides on the building's final status. The sources, however, described the decision as a victory for the settlement group, because in such disputes possession is the key to ultimately winning full rights.

Geva, in an affidavit he presented to the court, charged that Palestinian Authority security agents had threatened Palestinians who worked with the company he represented in making the deal on the building.

Yesterday, Rashad family members were allowed a last walk through the building to take out any belongings they had left behind, as Geva and Dahala watched. Police, which had kept both sides out of the building pending the court decision, gave Geva the keys on Wednesday.

"I was born in one of the upstairs rooms 60 years ago, and now look what has happened," said Ghazzi Rashad, among the family members who came to remove their belongings.

He said his family has not lived in the building for several years and had been subletting it to another Palestinian, Mughir Aladin Alomri, who owned the other half and made the deal with Dawn Holdings.

"We will not give up our fight for our house," Rashad said.

WEATHER

| | |
|------------|-------|
| Haifa | 17-25 |
| Tiberias | 17-26 |
| Afula | 13-25 |
| Semeria | 12-21 |
| Tel Aviv | 17-25 |
| Jerusalem | 12-21 |
| Beer Sheva | 15-25 |
| Dead Sea | 19-29 |
| Eilat | 18-31 |

Forecast: Showers. Shabbat: Cooler than usual and local showers.

AROUND THE WORLD

| | LOW | HIGH | |
|--------------|-----|------|--------|
| Amsterdam | 8 | 15 | clear |
| Berlin | 10 | 18 | partly |
| Buenos Aires | 17 | 25 | clear |
| Caracas | 24 | 32 | partly |
| Chicago | 8 | 15 | clear |
| Copenhagen | 8 | 15 | partly |
| Frankfurt | 10 | 18 | clear |
| Geneva | 10 | 18 | clear |
| Helsinki | 10 | 18 | clear |
| Hong Kong | 24 | 32 | partly |
| Jakarta | 24 | 32 | clear |
| London | 10 | 18 | clear |
| Los Angeles | 15 | 22 | clear |
| Mexico | 15 | 22 | partly |
| Montreal | 10 | 18 | clear |
| Moscow | 10 | 18 | partly |
| New York | 10 | 18 | partly |
| Paris | 10 | 18 | clear |
| Rome | 10 | 18 | clear |
| Sao Paulo | 15 | 22 | clear |
| Stockholm | 10 | 18 | clear |
| Taipei | 15 | 22 | clear |
| Tel Aviv | 17 | 25 | clear |
| Tokyo | 15 | 22 | clear |
| Warsaw | 10 | 18 | clear |
| Zurich | 10 | 18 | clear |

Workers to shut down B-G airport tonight

The workers committee at Ben-Gurion Airport plans to shut down the airport from sundown tonight for 24 hours to protest the fact that workers have not received guarantees that their salaries and pensions will not be hurt when the Airports Authority begins to be taxed on January 1.

The works committee declared a labor dispute more than two months ago, but has yet to receive the guarantees. The committee is to meet after Shabbat to decide on what further steps to take.

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